



STEELE COUNTY TIMES



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Tuesday, January 10, 2017



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New county board takes its seats



Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

Comissioners Rick Gnemi, Jim Abbe, and Greg Krueger took their seats at their first county board meeting on Jan. 3 after being sworn in that morning. The county board is now made up entirely of people who have served less than three years.

BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

The outgoing county commissioners took their seats for the final time for the

first half of the meeting on Jan. 3

In final business, they approved the collective bargaining agreements for wages for the courthouse unit (AFSCME), the highway unit (AFSCME), the

certified peace officer - Road Deputy Unit (LELS), and the essential jailer - correctional officer/corporal unit (LELS), as well the non-union general wage increase. The non-union wage in-

crease was patterned after the collective bargaining agreements.

Prior to their final vote, Commissioner James Brady thanked the outgoing commissioners for their service saying, "There's a lot of little things you do every day that nobody sees."

After a brief break, the new board took their seats. For chairman they elected James Brady and for vice-chair John Glynn. Brady and Glynn are now the most experienced members of the board.

The majority of their first meeting was dedicated to setting in place business for the coming year.

They awarded a publication bid for county records and finances for 2017 to the Steele County Times.

During many of the agenda items, questions were raised about how much was being spent by the county. Commissioner Rick Gnemi especially seemed adamant that no expense be assumed.

"That's why they brought us here," said Gnemi during a discussion of the cost of conference travel, "to cut expenses."

In an item of particular interest, the new board passed a resolution specifically authorizing the county auditor in the payment of salaries, wages, and per diems.

This comes after the state auditor conducted a review of per diem payments made to Steele County commissioners and made a recommendation this fall to pass a resolution specifically granting this authority to the county auditor.

In other business, they moved to transfer funds for the Four Seasons into the general fund. It's hoped this will allow for more oversight of how the money is spent.

When the floor was opened for public comment, frequent commentator Gene Hovey expressed concern that the elimination of the meeting of the committee of the whole by combining it with the county board meeting would lead to less time for public comment on particular issues.

In the commissioners closing comments, the new board members wanted to let the public know they would be working hard on their behalf.

"The public needs to be patient with us," said Commissioner Jim Abbe, "We have a lot to learn." He said he was excited to attend the state's "commissioners 101" meeting. Commissioner Krueger agreed with Abbe's sentiments.

Gnemi finished saying, "We're going to make an honest, concerted effort."

Brody Lang has baby brother



Staff photo Howard Lestrud

The first baby of 2017 honor was claimed by Kelly and Mark Lang of rural Blooming Prairie. Weston Patrick Lang was born on Jan. 2 at the Mayo Health Systems Hospital of Austin. He was welcomed by big brother Brody, 2 1/2.

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

Little Brody Lang, 2 1/2, has a baby brother and it just so happens that his baby brother was born on Jan. 2, 2017 to become the First Baby of the Year as recognized by Mayo Health Systems Hospital in Austin and by the Steele County Times.

Asked how it feels to be a big brother, Brody replied: "real good."

Weston Patrick Lang was born

at 1:27 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 2, the proud parents being Kelly and Mark Lang. The Langs reside on a 20-acre hobby farm about five miles south of Blooming Prairie.

The tale of the tape: Weston weighed in at 7 lbs. 12 ozs. and measured 21 1/2 inches in length. He has brown hair and glistening blue eyes. Brother Brody came in slightly heavier at birth, 8 lbs. 10 ozs.

Maternal grandparents are Tom and Mary Jo Klaverkamp of St. Cloud. Paternal grandparents are

Dick and Patti Lang of Austin.

Brody is very proud of his little brother and helps mom and dad by covering baby Weston with a blanket. "I also sang Happy Birthday to him," says Brody proudly.

"Brody has been a real good brother, sharing his toys and wanting to feed him," mom Kelly says.

Independently of one another, Kelly and Mark came up with the name Weston. "He was going to be Weston or Parker so we let Brody pick and he chose Weston," Kelly relates. She said Weston's middle name of Patrick comes from Mark, his middle name being Patrick.

Mark is a full-time police officer for the Blooming Prairie Police Department. He carried the rank of sergeant and is entering his 18th year with the department.

Kelly is in her 17th year as a teacher at the Ellis Middle School in Austin. She also is the school's athletic director. She plans to return to teaching in April.

Mark grew up in the Austin area and Kelly comes from St. Cloud.

Mark and Kelly said having a second child is easier than the first. Offering advice to first-time parents, Kelly says patience is important. "It will get better," she promises.

Having a New Year's baby was something Kelly and Mark thought was possible. Mark had just come home from a police patrolling shift after 10 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 1. Kelly informed him her water had broken. Off to the hospital, the Langs went and the rest is history.



Staff photo by Rick Bussler

The train derailment took place just outside of Ellendale and led to a forced evacuation of the town. No one was injured in the crash or evacuation.

Derailement explained

By JOSHUA ZIMMER
County Staff Writer

Just two months removed from the 22-car derailment on Nov. 11 in Ellendale, Union Pacific Railroad found the cause.

According to the initial investigation that was conducted, a rail defect was the cause of the incident. A report, which stated the Union's findings, was filed with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) on Dec. 30.

Calli Hite, who is the director of corporate communication for the railroad, said that Union Pacific based the determination of the event on "an extensive investigation".

A final determination of the cause will not be announced until the FRA concludes its own investigation and files a report on the matter.

It has been noted by an FRA spokesperson that a report is expected to be available by March.

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Opinion

Our view

Into the New

It is a new year and new era. There are so many new elected faces who have vowed to champion America, our state and our communities. Are you ready? Attitude going in means everything. We have choices to encourage or to discourage. We can roll up our sleeves and be part of the solution or we can sit back and remain part of the problem. We have a character to test. We can push to help our elected leaders succeed or we can cross our arms and our fingers and secretly hope that they fail. Just so you will appear “righteous.” For the common good. For the bigger picture. For the sake of all concerned. A sacrifice must be made this year. A new commitment to helping, cheering and doing. There must be a sacrifice of you needing to be “right” and the fragile ego that could be so easily bruised if the one you predicted would fail... succeeds.

Change comes in many forms. And it starts by looking in the mirror. It starts by teaching your children that there is “no give up” in you. No “give up” in helping to paint the bigger picture. A consensus of compromise to make things work. How we handle adversity speaks volumes to the next generation. We are so concerned with the environment and how our grandchildren will fare 50 years from now, but what about the environment of their mind. Do you plant poison so that the tree that bears fruit 50 years from now is tainted, or are we planting good seeds into the hearts and minds of our children? Sitting back and waiting for failures to happen cannot be our option in 2017. Ask yourself this question. Do you really want things to change for the better or do you just want everyone to glorify you because you predicted doom? With your actions, you answer your own question. If you want to bring change to your elected officials in this country, this state, this community, you can be a doer. If you want to cause rebellion and strife, sit back and be a pacifist – or worse, be a naysayer. Many people have purchased the new “Fitbits” for Christmas this past year. It helps to mark their steps and their actions. It’s too bad they can’t purchase an additional unit for their tongues. Ultimately it’s your choice. Run your race with patience, with hope and with love, or, run your mouth. The old adage, “many hands make light work” certainly applies as you make a new commitment this year. It is a new start for all. When you lay your head on your pillow each night, check to see how many miles you’ve walked and compare it to how many miles you’ve talked. Let’s press on – through the adversity, through the old tendencies to have to always be right. Into a new place where we teach our future generations a better way.



HOT PURSUIT



RICK BUSSLER

Newer isn’t always better. I’ve painfully found that out over the past three months. What started out as a simple desire to improve efficiency within our organization has turned into a bad disaster at my expense, of course. Last fall after attending a trade show, I got the idea to switch our accounting system to one all-inclusive system that would do many office functions in one. This looked especially attractive because it was designed specifically for newspapers. With the new system, I would be able to streamline processes between two offices and even cut back on staff time needed to complete the tasks. It didn’t help matters when the person installing the new system from New Hampshire came down with an illness that seemed to wipe him out of commission for pretty much the entire three weeks he was supposed to be focused on us. At one point, he even became hospitalized for several days. I’m guessing he was even sick before he ventured

Newer not always what it’s cracked up to be

to Minnesota for this endeavor. He ended up leaving five weeks after starting the install and then worked on our system remotely from back home. He even employed the help of his assistant to get us moving in the right direction. And then a week before Christmas she showed up to jump start us even further. We also spent a considerable amount of time trying to hook up both offices on the same system. For two weeks straight I was unable to enter anything at one of the locations. I got the classic finger pointing between the software vendor and my IT person. They each blamed the other for not being operational while all the while I was stuck in the middle not being able to do what needed to be done. When it became clear to me that the only way to make it operational between both of my offices would be utilizing older software, instead of the most current version, with the so-called new bookkeeping system, I pushed the panic button and decided I had had enough. The system is supposed to handle all areas of bookkeeping, including accounts payable, receivable, payroll and billing for all advertising as well as our subscription program. After almost three months, we have only one phase of the system operational and even that’s not even operating at full capacity. I would hope you can begin to sense the frustration and anguish that started building up inside of me as well as the rest of the office. Let’s just say I’ve been popping the Tylenol left and right trying to keep the headache away from all the chaos this system has caused us. I’ve tried to exercise great patience over the past few months with this system, especially with the installer being sick, but I finally reached a breaking point. For some reason the vendor failed to remember I have a business to run and need working systems without glitches galore and shoddy service at best. It amazes me how someone can run a business like this guy has for many years. And it made me realize that newer may not always be what it’s cracked up to be. Sometimes it’s just best to stick with the old way of doing things. They may not always be the fastest or easiest way, but certainly fairly reliable at the end of the day. For now, I’ll be in hot pursuit of sticking with the old. As I have found, old isn’t always such a bad thing.

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Guest Column

Remember this fall’s county-wide flooding?

By TIM PENNY
SMIF CEO/President

Last week Viet “Henry” Long stopped into Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation’s (SMIF) office. He was confused about a of couple checks he had received from the Foundation. They were not big checks, totaling only \$2,500, but both were indeed for Henry, who co-owns Magic Ten Nails in Owatonna. Henry took over ownership after the 2010 floods, when the previous owner decided the clean-up was more than she wanted to undertake. When the 2016 floods came in September, Magic Ten Nails, located right across from the Straight River in Owatonna, was again underwater. For those of us who did not suffer water damage during those torrential rains, September

already seems so long ago. But, that is not true for those homes and businesses that experienced flooding. “It was going to take two to three months for the insurance money to come through,” said Long. “We couldn’t wait that long to get back in business - as a small business, we needed to keep working to keep making money. I had taken out a loan for initial repairs, and was grateful to receive SMIF’s funds so quickly to help buy new furniture and equipment.” The grant to Long and 16 other business owners was a small but fast response to the 2016 floods in our region. SMIF’s Business Disaster Recovery Grants are based on studies that show that early money is crucial to help businesses decide to re-open. When I first started at the

Foundation in 2007, one of my first duties was to figure out what SMIF’s response should be to the 2007 floods in southeastern Minnesota. We set up a Disaster Recovery Fund program to provide small grants to businesses to help with initial expenses until insurance money could come through. Since then, the Disaster Recovery Fund model has been replicated in our region and across the state to respond to everything from tornadoes to fires. As ever in emergencies like these, my friend and colleague John Monson of AgStar is always the first call I get. “Tim, what can we do to help?” AgStar put in the first funds after the 2007 floods, and again after this February’s main street fire in Madelia. They also provided a large portion of the funds for the recent flood

recovery efforts. In every instance, those AgStar donations have helped leverage other donations to our Disaster Recovery Fund. In 2007, \$850,000 was raised and distributed to more than 110 affected businesses in southeastern Minnesota. For the Madelia fire, approximately \$240,000 came through the fund (with \$100,000 donated by Downs Food Group). The grants SMIF gives are not large and certainly do not cover all losses. But when faced with a disaster, the Foundation’s main priority is to encourage our region’s small businesses to re-open. These business owners need to know they are valued and surrounded by a support network. In addition to Henry Long’s visit, last week the Foundation

also received a note of thanks from a local child care provider, Connie Scott. “The flood that damaged my child care business came when I was still struggling to get up and running,” said Scott. “I debated whether to repair the damage and start over, or close the doors. I am pleased with the looks of my updated and renewed daycare and look forward to moving ahead. [SMIF’s] support made a big difference! When I stopped by Scott’s child care last week, it was hard to imagine what it looked like with three feet of water. People like Connie, Henry and many others have demonstrated a high degree of resiliency. In a town of 1,700 like Rushford, or 2,300 like Madelia or 9,300 like flooded Waseca, the loss of even one or two businesses is huge. That is why we are proud of the small but important role served by our Foundation’s Disaster Recovery Fund. For example, in Rushford alone, where roughly 70 businesses were flooded back in 2007, 83 percent of the businesses that reopened after the floods are still doing business today. SMIF’s disaster recovery dollars helped make that possible. 2016 was a difficult year for main street businesses in Madelia and for businesses affected by the September rains. Here is hoping that 2017 is a prosperous year for these small business owners and for the region as a whole. As always, I welcome your comments and questions. You can reach me at timp@smifoundation.org or 507-455-3215.



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2016 6 National Awards 8 State Awards	2011 4 National Awards (Awards presented by Minnesota Newspaper Association and National Newspaper Association)
2015 4 National Awards 7 State Awards	
2014 3 National Awards 3 State Awards	
2013 2 National Awards 7 State Awards	
2012 2 State Awards	



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The opinions of our readers in the form of Letters to the Editor are a vital contribution to the healthy exchange of ideas on the Steele County Times opinion page. All letters must be signed by the writer/ writers and include a telephone number for verification purposes. Letters are accepted through personal delivery, by mail or by email at bptimes@frontiernet.net.

Opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Steele County Times and the editor reserves the right to edit letters when necessary. Please limit opinions to no longer than 350 words.

The Steele County Times encourages readers to write letters to the editor as a means of communicating ideas and opinions with others, with a goal being to make the community better for all people.

ETHICS

The Steele County Times editorial staff strives to present the news in a fair and accurate manner. Please bring any grievances against the Steele County Times to the attention of the managing editor.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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DEADLINE

News: Noon Fridays.
Advertising: 4 p.m. Thursdays.

Obituaries

Gail Jeanne Larson, 66, of rural Claremont



Gail Jeanne Larson, 66, of rural Claremont, died Friday, Dec. 30, 2016, at her home surrounded by her family. She was born Nov. 23, 1950,

in Fargo, North Dakota, the daughter of Mervin and Georgene (Herbold) Arett. Gail married John Larson exactly 48 years before her date of death December 30Dec. 30, 1968. The couple lived in Alaska for five years before moving to their farm in Aurora Township. While in Alaska they operated a cleaning service and she worked as a secretary. After moving to Aurora Township, she continued working as a secretary for St. John Construction, Sahf Construction and for her husband at Larson Trucking & Excavating. Gail also was a day care provider, operated a cleaning business with her daughter Julie and served as the Aurora Township clerk. Gail was very active in Aurora

Lutheran Church. Over the years she served as the secretary, custodian, was a Sunday School teacher and was active with Aurora WELCA. Gail loved spending time with her family and being an active part of her grandchildren's lives. In retirement, Gail enjoyed doing day care for her youngest grandchildren, Lukas and Evan. She often commented that they "kept her young." She is survived by her husband, John Larson of Claremont; children, Julie (and Mike) Spinler of Blooming Prairie, Rick (and Anissa) Larson of Claremont, Tim (and Susan) Larson of Claremont, Jackie (and Andrew Halla) Larson of Owatonna, Lisa Larson of Claremont; 9 grandchildren;

6 great grandchildren; brothers, Mark Arett of Claremont, Bruce (and Shelley) Arett of Byron and cousins, nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, Mervin and Georgene Arett; father and mother-in-law, J. Stanley and Grace Larson; son, William Larson. Visitation was held at the Arett Family Farm, 7360 SE 81st St, Claremont Thursday from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. and at Aurora Lutheran Church Friday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Funeral services were held Friday, Jan. 6, 2017, at 11 a.m. at Aurora Lutheran Church with pastor Stephanie Wood officiating. Interment was available in the Aurora Lutheran Cemetery in Aurora Township.

Bonnie Jean (Gillis) Scaife, 81, formerly of Blooming Prairie



Bonnie Jean (Gillis) Scaife,

81, of Scottsdale, Arizona, formerly of Blooming Prairie and Minnetonka, passed away on Dec. 8, 2016. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 12 at Christ Presbyterian Church, 6901 Normandale Road in Edina. Interment will be at the Blooming Prairie Cemetery at 3:30 p.m. She was preceded in death by husband Fred Scaife and parents Mervin and Mary Hansen. Bonnie is survived by brother John (Dorene) Hansen; "acquired" daughters Laurie (Scott) Kaster and Karen (Jeff)

Tetzlaff; "acquired" grandchildren Travis, Tara, Lindsay, and Gabe; Fred's children Joyce Klas (James), James Scaife (Tara), and Janet Schmiel (Peter); step-grandchildren Matthew (Veronica), Josiah, Frederick, Ann, Christina, Laura, and Jonathan. Bonnie was born on Oct. 29, 1935. She was raised in Blooming Prairie and graduated from Blooming Prairie High School in 1953 and Bemidji State College in 1958. She was a longtime educator and administrator in Richfield, Austin,

and Robbinsdale Schools. She was an experienced world traveler, an avid reader of history, biographies, and the Bible, and a dedicated church volunteer. Bonnie will be remembered for her unassuming kindness and generosity, and her strong Christian faith. Memorials preferred to Hope Centers for Children of Africa, 500 Rudy Lane, Buffalo, MN 55313. The funeral is being handled by Washburn-McCreavy Funeral Chapel in Edina Cemetery in Aurora Township.

Lorilei E. 'Charlie' Robinson, 62, of Blooming Prairie

Lorilei E. 'Charlie' Robinson, age 62 of Blooming Prairie, died peacefully at her home Monday, Jan. 2, 2017. She was born on the White Earth Indian Reservation in northern Minnesota July 23, 1954, the daughter of William and Lucelia (Smith) Peake. Lorilei grew up in the

Minneapolis area and moved to Blooming Prairie in 1994. In her leisure time, Lorilei enjoyed gardening, feeding her birds and squirrels, and anything to do with crafts. She also loved fishing and playing bingo. Lorilei will be dearly missed by her family and friends.

Survivors include her daughter Jacqueline 'Junior' Robinson of Blooming Prairie, her brother Ed (Sandy) Smith of Bemidji, and many other relatives and friends. Lorilei was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Calvin, her daughter Jennifer, her granddaughter Luah, and her

sister Leah Olson. A memorial service was held at Jan. 9, 2017, at the First Baptist Church in Blooming Prairie. Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. Condolences may be expressed online at www.worlein.com.

Ellen Polzin Niski, 85, of Austin

Ellen Polzin Niski, 85, of Austin, Minnesota, died Wednesday (Jan. 4, 2017) of natural causes at Mala Strana Rehabilitation Center in New Prague, Mn, where she had been a resident since 2009. Ellen Eloise Uptagraff was born Nov. 12, 1932, in West Concord, Minnesota, to Claude and Sarah(Babcock) Uptagraff. She grew up in Dodge Center, Minnesota, attended school there, graduating from West Concord H.S. in 1949. She attended Austin Teacher's College for two years and taught in 1 room country school houses in Steele and Dodge Countys for 10 years. Ellen was married Jan. 8, 1966, in Rochester, Minnesota, to Arthur E. Polzin. Following their marriage the couple lived in Racine, Mn and Stewartville, Minnesota. Mr. Plozin died Nov. 26, 1972. Ellen and her son Arthur moved to Austin where she lived for many years. Ellen was married Jan. 23, 1980, to Chester Niski in Austin where they made their home. Mr. Niski died Oct. 8, 1994. Ellen was a past member of the First Baptist Church in Stewartville and Grace Lutheran Church in Austin. She enjoyed reading her Bible and going out to dinner with her son – Arthur. Ellen is survived by her son - Arthur "Art" Polzin of Alden, Minnesota, and 2 sisters – Maryls Thompson of Hayfield, Minnesota, and Marion Cordiner of Woodbury, Minnesota. She was preceded in death by her husbands. A private family burial and committal service will take place at Woodlawn Cemetery in Stewartville at a later date. Arrangements are with Griffin-Gray F.H. in Stewartville.



By HOWARD LESTRUD Staff Writer

Mark your calendar for Sunday, Jan. 15, the date of a Blooming Prairie Cancer Group benefit breakfast at the Pizza Cellar in downtown Blooming Prairie. The breakfast officially kicks off the BP Cancer Group's fundraising year. The breakfast will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Get your taste buds ready for some delicious pancakes, eggs and sausage. Orange juice, milk or coffee will also be served. A free will donation is asked. In addition to eating a tasty meal, customers will also be able to bid on several attractive silent auction items. Some of the items include: Bear Paw basket; troll basket; pink cancer tie dyed basket and Scentsy. About 30 items will be featured on the auction. Kids and adults are encouraged to bring in their coins for the fish bowl. The coins will be donated to the Eagles Cancer Telethon. The BP Cancer Group is earning funds all year long with a big cancer auction weekend held in early September. Representatives of the BP Cancer Group will present a check to the Eagles Telethon

Cancer Corner BP Cancer Group sponsors breakfast



Submitted photo

A Blooming Prairie Cancer Group donation jar has caught the attention of many youngsters who have been saving their coins to donate to the fight against cancer . Collecting coins were: Eva Magnuson, Annastyn Peterson, Ayden Jones, Isaiah Jones, Cassidy Jones and Aubree Johnson.

at the Mayo Civic Auditorium in Rochester on Saturday, Jan. 14. The BP Cancer Group donated an all-time high of \$73,000 last year. "I can't tell you what the amount will be this year but it won't be as high as the impressive total of last year," said Cheri Krejci, BP Cancer Group treasurer. "It was an exceptional year," Krejci added. The BP Cancer Group is expected to be making the donation sometime around 9:15 p.m., sandwiched close to the 9 p.m. performance by Stix of

Fury, a Blooming Prairie drum corps group. The telethon will be aired on Channel 10, KTTC Television. On top of the donation made by the BP Cancer Group to the Eagles Telethon, a check for \$8000 was sent to the Homel Institute for cancer research. Last year, a \$15,000 donation was given to the Homel Institute. "The generosity of people to our cause is incredible," Krejci said. "We are very fortunate to have the support of so many people," she continued.

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11th

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12th

Ernie Betlach Jean Haubenschild

13th

Luke Nelson Shannon Rivera-Escandon Kim Erickson Amelyah Hass

14th

Holly Carlson Brayden J. Greene Jeremy Doerhoefer

15th

Pam Hameister Dr. Chad M. Eischens Elijah Peterson Brian Farr

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11th

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SEMCAC senior menu

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Jan. 11 Teriyaki Chicken Baked Potato Broccoli Cranberry Sauce Pineapple Slices	Jan. 13 Taco Salad Grapes Double Pistachio Cake	



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Area Church Spotlight

Cedar Creek Church, Hayfield, MN

Pastor's corner: I Heard the Christmas bells on Christmas Day

Often knowing the stories behind the lyrics of hymns, contemporary worship songs and even Christmas carols adds greater meaning to the lyrics. Such is true with the carol, “I heard the bells on Christmas Day”.

They were penned by the well-known poet Henry Longfellow in 1863. Longfellow had experienced numerous heartaches in his life including losing a child in infancy and two years earlier, his wife whose dress caught on fire and she died the next day. Henry’s facial burns were so severe from trying to rescue her that he was not even able to attend her funeral. He grew a beard to hide his burned face and at times feared that he would be sent to an asylum because his grief.

In March of 1863, one of his son’s charley, enlisted in the union army to serve in the civil war. In December of that year, Henry received a telegram

that Charley had been severely injured 4 days earlier. He’d been shot in the left shoulder with the bullet exiting the right shoulder blade. Henry was alarmed when the initial report from army surgeons suggested paralysis (later accurate reports were that he would recover after at least 6 months rest).

On Christmas day as his son’s potential paralysis was on his mind, as well as perhaps missing his wife, and the lack of peace all around him with the civil war raging and Americans killing Americans, he heard bells ringing as well as the singing of “Peace on Earth”. It all seemed unreal with his personal heartaches, the war raging on and other injustices all around.

He then wrote:
“I heard the bells on Christmas Day; their old, familiar carols play; and wild and sweet the words re-

peat of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And thought how, as the day had come, The belfries of all Christendom Had rolled along the unbroken song, Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

...Then from each black, accursed mouth, the cannon thundered in the South,

And with the sound, the carols drowned, Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head; “There is no peace on earth,” I said;

“For hate is strong, and mocks the song, Of peace on earth, good-will to men!”

Most of us can probably relate to the difficulty of hearing songs of cheer and happiness when life is sad and depressing. But rather than to stay there, he bowed his head to get

perspective. Afterward, he ended the poem with lyrics of hope:

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep, “God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;

The Wrong shall fail, The Right prevail, With peace on earth, good-will to men.”

Experiencing personal heartache and seeing plenty of heartache around the world can leave one depressed and pessimistic. But as Christians we must read and remember the end of our holy Book the Bible. Wrongs shall fail, right prevail and loved ones in Christ will be reunited. All because of the one whose birth we celebrate this time of year!

Peace,
Pastor Aaron DeNeui
Cedar Creek Church
Hayfield, MN

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Area Church Schedule

Lutheran

AURORA LUTHERAN
6329 SE 38th St., Owatonna
Pastor Stephanie Wood
(507) 676-5696

10:45 a.m. Sunday Worship Service
9:15 a.m. Sunday School

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
5881 S.E. 118th St., Blooming Prairie
Pastor Stephanie Wood
(507) 676-5696

Sunday School 10:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
434 First St. SW., Blooming Prairie
Heidi Heimgartner, Associate Pastor
(507) 583-6621

firstlutheranbp.com
Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
8953 S.W. 37th Ave., Hope
Pastor Sandy Miller
(507) 451-3854

Services: 9 a.m. Sunday School,
Adult Ed: 10:15 a.m.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN—LCMS
2500 Seventh Ave. N.E., Owatonna
The Rev. Mark Rosenau,
the Rev. Gregory Schlicker
(507) 451-4125

www.goodshepherdowatonna.com
Services: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. &
10:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

9651 SW 75th Street Ellendale
(507)465-8366

Family Choir 9:00-9:15 a.m.
Sunday School/Adult Education
9:15 a.m. Sunday, Worship 10:15 a.m.

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN—ELCA
30450 570th Ave., Waltham
Minister Dwight DoBell
(507) 567-2474

Service: 8:30 a.m. Sunday Sunday
School: 9:45 a.m.

RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN—ELCA
30456 Mower-Freeborn Road, Austin
Pastor Lindsay Stolen
(507) 583-2038 or (507) 437-3000

www.roglutheran.org
Service: 9 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School (Sept-May): 10:15 a.m.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS
1054 Truman Ave., Owatonna
Pastor Kirk Griebel
(507) 451-2720

www.redeemerowatonna.org
Service: 9 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS
4532 S.E. 84th Ave., Claremont
The Rev. Alan Broadwell
(507) 528-2404

sjlcoffice@frontiernet.net
Weekly Church Services:
Saturday Evening at 6 p.m. with Holy
Communion, Sunday Morning at
10:30 a.m. with Holy Communion
offered during the 2nd and 4th Sunday
of each month. Sunday School 9:00
a.m. - 10:15 a.m. (Sept. - June)

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS
28959 630th Ave., Sergeant
Pastor Collin Duling
Service: 10:15 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
104 First St. S.E., Hayfield
The Rev. Paul Hauschild
(507) 477-2248

www.trinityhayfield.org
Services: 8 & 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN—LCMS
57403 300th St., Waltham
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
(507) 567-2272

Service: 10:15 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9 a.m.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN—LCMS
202 E. Park Ave., Hollandale
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
(507) 567-2272

Service: 8:00 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
106 Third St. S.E., Geneva
Pastor Kristen Venne
(507) 256-4288

Service: 9:30 a.m. Sunday

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale
Pastor Patti Meyer
(507) 451-2165

Worship 8:30 AM
TRINITY LUTHERAN



CHURCH—LCMS
108 Third Ave S.W., Medford
Pastor Mark Biebighauser
(507) 451-0447

Service: 9 a.m. Sunday
Education hour: 10 a.m.

ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
2781 S.W. 92nd Ave., Meriden
Pastor Patti Meyer
(507) 451-2165

Worship 10:30 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA

609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna
Todd Buegler, Senior Pastor
Dean Smith, Associate Pastor
(507) 451-4520 www.tlcowatonna.org

Worship Services: Saturday: 5 p.m.
Sunday: 8:15 & 9:30 a.m.
Sunday: 10:45 a.m. Contemporary
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8:15 & 9:30 am Sunday School

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH, AFLC
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Worship: 10:10 Sunday School;
10:15 Coffee and Fellowship
Tuesday - 6 a.m. Call to Prayer, open
to all Churches; 7 p.m. Call to Prayer
Wednesday - 9:30 a.m. Bible Study;
6 p.m. Call to Prayer; 6:15 Hands
of Praise; 6:30 Confirmation;
6:30 p.m. Youth Group

MOLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH
7618 NE 84 Ave, Kenyon
Pastor Nancy Edwardson
(507) 789-6666
(Sept. - May) 10:45 a.m. Worship
(June - Aug.) 9:00 a.m. Worship
9:30 a.m. Sunday School

Catholic

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC
150 NE Second St. Hayfield
The Rev. Thomas Niehaus
(507) 477-2256

Sunday Mass: 8 a.m.
Reconciliation: Before Mass
Adoration: Thursdays 9 to noon

ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC PARISH
114 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie
The Rev. Thomas Niehaus
(507) 583-2784

stcolumbanuschurch.com
Sunday Mass: 10 a.m. Sunday.
Office hours: M-F, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS
307 First St. SW., New Richland
The Rev. Raul Silva, Pastor
The Rev. Adam McMillan,
Parochial Vicar
(507) 465-8217

Saturday Mass: 5:00 p.m.

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL
9946 SE 24th Ave., Owatonna
The Rev. John Sauer, Pastor
Fr. Jose Morales, Parochial Vicar
(507) 451-1588

www.litomysl.webs.com
Sunday Mass: 9:30 a.m.
with Children's Church
Reconciliation: after Mass 1st Sunday
Family Faith Formation and Adult
Bible Study after Mass with noon
potluck; 2nd Sunday of month Faith
formation for Kindergarten thru
Confirmation: every Wednesday
evening 6:30 p.m.

Annual turkey bingo, Sunday, Nov. 20
7 p.m.

SACRED HEART PARISH
810 S. Cedar Ave., Owatonna
The Rev. John Sauer
The Rev. Jose Morales,
Parochial Vicar
(507) 451-1588
www.sacredheartowatonna.org

Sunday Mass: Vigil 5 p.m. Saturday,
8:30 a.m. & 10 a.m.
Spanish Mass: 11:45 a.m. Sunday
Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.
Reconciliation: 4 p.m. Saturday
Adoration: Thursdays 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.

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Fr. Kevin Connolly

Deacon Patrick Fagan
Sat. Mass: 4 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.
Reconciliation 3-5:30 p.m. Saturday

Daily Mass 8 a.m. Tues., Wed. & Fri
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CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING
205 NW Second Ave., Medford
(507) 451-6353

Fr. Kevin Connolly, Pastor
Deacon Patrick Fagan
Sunday Mass: 8:30 a.m.
Monday Mass: 9 a.m.



Christian

Christ Community Covenant Church

540 18th St. SE, Owatonna
Dr. V. Brent Carlson, Pastor
507-451-1032
Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.
Connections 10:15 a.m.

DESTINY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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422 W. North Street, Owatonna
Pastors Sam and Cheri Benson
507-254-8514 www.destinycc.org
Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

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Methodist

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Service: 10:45 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Sunday

ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
200 Sixth St. N.W., Ellendale
Pastor Randy Cirkse
(507) 684-2731
www.ellendaleumc.org
Services: 9:30 a.m. Sunday
Free home style meal on the first
Sunday of the month through Dec.
2016. Worship is at 10:30 a.m.
followed by the free meal at
11:30 a.m. All are welcome.

OWATONNA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
815 E. University, Owatonna
Loren Olson, Pastor
Linda Boorman, Associate Pastor
(507) 451-4734
www.owatonnaumc.org
Traditional Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday

Contemporary Worship: 10:45 a.m.
Church School/Adult Classes: 10 a.m.

Non-Denominational

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CEDAR CREEK CHURCH
30 E. Main St. P.O. Box 224,
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Pastor Aaron de Neui
(507) 477-2255
www.cedarcreekchurch.org
Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

ELEVATION NORTH CHURCH
2002 Austin Rd.

Pastor Doug Jones
(507) 363-3099

www.elevationnorth.blogspot.com
Sun 10 a.m. English Service
10:30 a.m. Service & Kids Zone
2 p.m. Spanish Service
Wed. 7:00 Bible Study
Fri 7:00 Spanish Outreach

NEW BEGINNINGS CHRISTIAN CHURCH
332 14th St. N.E., Owatonna
Pastor Scott Peterson
(507) 721-1366

Service: 10 a.m. Sunday
Gateway Connection: 7 p.m. Saturday

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Owatonna Campus
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Pastors Sam and Cheri Benson
507-254-8514

www.destinycc.org
Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

SIMPLE CHURCH
Pastor Todd Lundgren
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Mennonite

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Services: 7:30 p.m. Wednesday
and 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Mormon

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
404 31st St. N.W., Austin
Bishop Rick Bremner
(507) 433-9042
Service: 9 a.m.-10:10 a.m.

Presbyterian

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

109 E. Main St., Hayfield
Pastor Steven Robertson
(507) 477-2631
Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

Seventh-Day Adventist

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
2373 Seventh Ave. N.E., Owatonna
Pastor Robert Brauer
(507) 340-7143

Service: 11 a.m. Saturday
Sabbath School: 9:30 a.m. Saturday

UCC

CONGREGATIONAL UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST
211 Main St. S., Medford
Pastor Louise Bender
(507) 451-4596

Confirmation: 9 a.m. Sunday
Service: 10 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 10 a.m. Sunday

Assembly of God

VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
702 Third St. S., Ellendale
Pastor Patrick Stitt
(507) 684-3421

Service: 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9 a.m.
vibrantlifeag.com

Baptist

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

104 First Ave. N.E.,
Blooming Prairie
Pastor Matt Fennell
(507) 583-2673

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Sunday School: 9 a.m. Sunday



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Dear Savvy Senior,
My wife and I would like to get our personal and financial affairs in order so our kids will know what's going on if we get sick or die. What tips can you offer?

Procrastinating Paul

Then you'll need to sit down and create various lists of important information and instructions of how you want certain things handled when you die or if you become incapacitated. Here's a checklist of areas you need to focus on.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

•Contacts: Make a master list of names and phone numbers of close friends, clergy, doctors, and professional advisers such as your lawyer, accountant, broker and insurance agent.

•Medical information: Include a list of medications you and your spouse take, along with any allergies and illnesses.

•Personal documents: Include such items as your birth certifi-

cates, Social Security cards, marriage license, military discharge papers, etc.

•Secured places: List all the places you keep under lock and key or protected by password, such as safe deposit boxes, safe combination, security alarms, etc.

•Service providers: Provide contact information of the companies or people who provide your regular services such as utility companies, lawn service, etc.

•Pets: If you have a pet, give instructions for the care of the animal.

•End of life: Indicate your wishes for organ and tissue donation (see organdonor.gov), and write out your funeral instructions. If you've made pre-arrangements with a funeral home include a

copy of agreement, their contact information and whether you've prepaid or not.

LEGAL DOCUMENTS

•Will, trust and estate plan: Include the original copy of your will and other estate planning documents you've made.

•Financial power of attorney: This document names someone you trust to handle money matters if you're incapacitated.

•Advance health care directives: These documents (see carinfo.org) – a living will and medical power of attorney – spell out your wishes regarding your end-of-life medical treatment when you can no longer make decisions for yourself.



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FINANCIAL RECORDS

•Financial accounts: Make a list of all your bank accounts, brokerage and mutual fund accounts, and any other financial assets you have.

•Debts and liabilities: Make a list of any loans, leases or debt you have – mortgages owed, car loans, student loans, medical bills, credit card debts. Also, make a list of all credit and charge cards, including the card numbers and contact information.

•Company benefits: List any retirement plans, pensions or health benefits from your current or former employer including the contact information of the benefits administrator.

•Insurance: List the insurance policies you have (life, long-term care, home, auto, Medicare, Medicaid, prescription drug, etc.) including the policy numbers,

agents and phone numbers.

•Property: List real estate, vehicles and other properties you own, rent or lease and include documents such as deeds, titles, and loan or lease agreements.

•Taxes: Include the location of your tax records and your tax preparer's contact information.

Keep all your organized information and files together in one convenient location, ideally in a fireproof filing cabinet or safe in your home. Also be sure to review and update it every year, and don't forget to tell your loved ones where they can find it.

If you need help, get a copy of "12 Critical Things Your Family Needs to Know." This is an excellent 60-page workbook available at 12criticalthings.com for \$15 or \$19 for the downloadable versions, or \$25 for a printed copy.



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“We have no promises to make.”
-Will Annett

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff Writer

The Blooming Prairie Times which first published in May of 1893 was fully equipped in the newspaper and job lines and aimed to be part of a growing young city. In its early years of publication, the Times editors professed that their publication can knock out any newspaper in the country on numbers and quality of advertising matter. Local columns are full of the latest news “and we are blessed with wide-awake, intelligent correspondents in every township adjacent to Blooming Prairie,” editors wrote.

Will Annett became editor of The Times in February of 1895

In his inaugural editorial, Annett wrote: “We have no promises to make as to the future but will always work for the interests of the town and country and give the people as good a newspaper as we are capable of making.”

Annett made very little change in the makeup or appearance of the newspaper, although he did place a few more stories of local interest on the front page.

Annett obtained a team of correspondents from Moscow, Geneva, Westfield, Cooleyville (Ellendale) and Owatonna under the heading, “The Neighborhood.”

BUCKSEN ASSUMES OWNERSHIP

Just months later in October of 1895, Walter L. Bucksen of Owatonna purchased the shares of stock of all local merchants who had invested in the Times Printing Company.

Bucksen took over the editing of the newspaper and continued in that capacity until Aug. 1, 1897 when he sold the newspaper to two St. Ansgar, Iowa men, operating under the firm name of Steenberg & Jeglum. In payment, he took cash and a mortgage assigning the latter to J.C. Brainerd, local banker.

The careers of the two young Iowa men were short-lived as they served notice to Bucksen of their intent to initiate proceedings to have the contract rescinded and demanding a return of part of their investment. Brainerd then foreclosed the mortgage and announced a sheriff’s sale.

Instead of selling the Times to another party, Brainerd bid on the newspaper himself and became the owner and publisher. His editor was W. E. Merchant.

Only a month later, the Times was sold to Theodore P. Fagre. A native of Osage,

Iowa, Fagre arrived in Blooming Prairie upon his graduation from the University of Minnesota.

In his opening editorial, Fagre remarked “The Blooming Prairie Times is now entering its sixth year It has gone through many vicissitudes, has in those years seen the ups and downs associated to a newspaper and has changed hands a half dozen times. It is, however, more lively than ever. . .

“We hope and trust that the best understanding may always prevail between us and the community, and that Blooming Prairie with its rich and beautiful country may always prosper and advance in riches, culture and contentment”

“We have no grievances and no enmities to pursue.”
-Theodore P. Fagre

Bucksen returned to the publisher’s chair the following July. He had previously been postmaster of Blooming Prairie and wanted to enter the newspaper field again.

Steve Severson joined Bucksen on May 31, 1900 as a printer’s devil. He served in that capacity nearly 40 years.

PRINTING METHODS LABORIOUS

“Slow” is the word used

to describe the methods of printing the Times in the 1890s and early 1900s. An old Campbell press was used to print the four pages necessary to complete each run.

Two boys, John Sullivan and the other known as “Little Jack” weekly fought for the honor of turning the press at 50 cents per turn of the crank. History is recorded stating that the boys stripped to the waist and sweated during the grind that lasted one hour.

Fagre returned as editor and reported that the mainstay in turning out the paper was Tom Sullivan who was built like a bear and could turn the wheel of the press continuously for the entire edition without stopping.

Commercial printing was done on an old “jobber” press which had to be treadled by foot. Type was set by hand at the rate of 2 1/2 tallies a day. Emma Brooks was the first compositor and other members of the staff included Mrs. Bucksen, Billie Merchant and Steve and Ada Bergeman.

Newspaper style at the Times began to make a more dramatic presentation with less personal and editorial stories. One-line headings on events of importance lost favor and sometimes three-deck, four-deck and five-deck headlines began to appear. Local news was

relegated to the inside pages, while stories of national and world importance began appearing on the front page.

The hometown weekly paper returned news of local interest to its pages after small dailies invaded rural areas and presented national news.

In June of 1906, Fagre returned to the Times as editor and was, in addition, appointed to Bucksen’s postmaster position. An interest in the newspaper was sold to S.A. Rask.

Fagre and Rask wrote to their readers: “We expect to stay for better or worse for some years to come. We shall make no boasts and we hope our readers will not expect too much of us. . .

“We have no grievances and no enmities to pursue in these columns, nor do we pretend to have any particular favorites. Our aim shall be, in a modest way, to give everybody a spare deal and to work for the best interests of all. Our motto shall be the most good for the most people.”

Fagre placed national news on the inside pages and used important city items on the front page. Photographs began to appear on a limited basis. News was also grouped more systematically under heads: Correspondence, School News, Gleaned from The Exchanges and Church Notes.

More efficient machinery

was added at the Blooming Prairie Times in August of 1912 when the newspaper installed a three-revolution Hoe cylinder press and two new commercial presses.

Fagre resigned from the postmastership in 1914 but did not give up his newspaper work. He purchased an Intertype in 1923 to bring an end to the tedious process of setting type by hand.

By the 1920s, all advertising was taken off the front page, creating a more favorable cover setting. High school activities, athletics and significant events in other communities were receiving much more space than in the past.

NEXT: Follow ownership of the Times as it struggles during the Depression period but manages to survive. More ownership changes occurred.

(EDITOR’S NOTE: The Steele County Times will be reflecting on the 150-year history of Blooming Prairie with stories of interest during the entire year of 2017. Following is Part Two on the Blooming Prairie Times evolution. Much of the information comes from a Centennial publication of 1967 that recounts newspaper history of Blooming Prairie.)

Prairie Manor Inc. annual board meeting is:
Jan 26th at 5:00PM in the Chapel
223 4th St NW Blooming Prairie
Public Welcome.

MY BP RECOLLECTIONS

In honor of Blooming Prairie’s 150th anniversary, the Times is looking for reader submissions detailing life in the community.

Help us celebrate
Blooming’s rich heritage!

One winner will be chosen every month and awarded a pair of tickets to the **Chanhassen Dinner Theatre!**

- No more than 300 words
- Signed with contact info
- Submit to the Times
- E-Mail: bptimes@frontiernet.net

- Mail: P.O. Box 247, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
- In Person: 411 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie

STEELE COUNTY TIMES
Always local, all the time.

Recipe Corner

Meat Loaf

2/3 c. saltine cracker crumbs	1 tsp salt
1 c. milk	1/8 tsp pepper
1 1/2 lb. beef	1/2 tsp sage
1/4 c. grated onion	2 beaten eggs

Soak crackers in milk. Add beef, eggs, onion & seasoning. Mix well. Place in greased loaf pan.

SAUCE FOR MEATLOAF:
3 t brown sugar, 1/4 c catsup, 1/8 t nutmeg, 1 t dry mustard
Mix all ingredients and pour over meat loaf. Bake for 45 minutes to 1 hour at 350°. The sauce makes it!

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by
Darlene Grams

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Last of the Blooming Masonic lodge

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff Writer

With a nod of the head and the showing of his bidding number, Blooming Prairie resident and local Mason Tom Peterson became the owner of four antique items once owned by the Blooming Prairie Masonic Lodge.

The 140-year history of the Prairie Lodge No. 123 A.F. and A.M. came to an end on Saturday, Jan. 7 at a public auction.

It was a nostalgic time for many members of the Lodge who watched auctioneer Dave Thompson of Lansing distribute the many items placed on public auction by Prairie Lodge 123.

The auction was held at the Lodge quarters located just east of the Blooming Prairie Senior Center on Third Ave. SE. The auction originally was scheduled for last Dec. 17 but was postponed and moved to January because of stormy weather.

Proceeds from the auction will be donated to the Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial to be constructed just east of the Servicemen's Club.

Due to declining membership, the Prairie Lodge membership last October decided to close the lodge.

"I couldn't let the items go too cheap," said a pleased Mason Peterson after winning bids on an antique desk, a sewing rocker, a podium and an

antique chest.

The antique desk was maybe one of the biggest prizes of the day, going for \$280. Peterson said the history of the desk goes back to 1794.

"It's a bittersweet moment," said Peterson who traces his Masonic membership to that of his father Thomas C. "He was really into it," Peterson commented. "Warren Iverson got me into it," said Peterson.

Talking to fellow Mason Joe Wurst, Peterson learned that Wurst had been a mason for 45 years and was a lifetime member. "He's a true blue Mason," Peterson remarked.

"You get into an organization because of its principles," said Peterson, "and you can't beat the principles of the Masons," he emphasized. A handshake becomes your word, Peterson said.

More than 100 eager bidders and some strictly spectators crowded into the former Lodge quarters.

"I came here to buy some theatre seats," said Julie Ruzek of Rochester. Thirty-nine theater seats from the Old Rex Theatre in Blooming Prairie were up for auction.

Other items sold on the auction included 23 wooden Captain chairs, 55 steel folding chairs, piano bench, electronic organ with bench, various Masonic paraphernalia, seven folding card tables, oak library table, four-drawer filing cabinet, wood secretary's desk, kitchenware, silverware, dishes,

cups, large George Washington picture and several small pictures.

Shalane and Bob Hicks of Austin were pleased with a few items they acquired. Shalane explained their interest in the Masonic items was connected with the fact that her great grandfather George Jones was a mason in Iowa. She said she and her husband plan on putting the items on a display with her great grandfather's items.

Another prize item was a large photo of the first U.S. President George Washington, wearing his Masonic apron.

Chris and son Mike Anderson of Mason City, Iowa bought the framed Washington photo for \$180. The elder Anderson said he knew he wanted that photo before he arrived at the auction.

"I should be able to double my money on that piece," said Anderson. He and his son have been in the antiquing business for over 25 years.

Another George Washington photo, a closeup portrait, was bought by Mike Jones of Blooming Prairie.

Ken Trom, a Prairie Lodge Mason and coordinator of the auction, said he was "very pleased" with how the items were selling. He was interested in some old Bibles placed on the auction.

Final sale totals were not yet available early this week. "I think we had some happy bidders," Trom said.



Staff photo Howard Lestrud

Prairie Lodge 123 member Tom Peterson was the successful bidder on some antique items at the public auction for the Blooming Prairie Masonic Lodge on Saturday, Jan. 7. The prize item was the antique desk which dates back to the 1700s.

Oh the luster of the Minnesota bluster

LITTLE THOUGHTS
ON THE PRAIRIE



MARK
DELAP

To quote a lion on his way to OZ... "unusual weather we're havin' ain't it." Or another well-loved quote comes to mind from the pen

of A.A. Milne, "It was a rather blustery day in the hundred-acre wood."

Wow. I find myself amid this Minnesota winter, cheering for global warming and hoping that it will soon find its way to my front door. I find some of my most satisfying reading material at this time of year in the kiosk of my travel agent and realize I love stories of travel to exotic places complete with pictures.

My son keeps sending me weather updates in the brutal land of Orlando, Florida, where the other night the temperature actually dipped to 68 degrees in the middle of the night. Shocking!

There is a pride, though that

comes with living amongst the snow fairies and Mr. J Frost. The pride in being able to tell people that we not only went through it, but survived it. A cold comes whipping over the Rocky Mountains and comes across the barren plains like a freight train until it hits the speed ramp of the black hills and lands somewhere with a resounding crash in southeastern Minnesota.

I personally feel that it has seen one too many Evel Knievel videos. So, here we are, ensconced in the meat freezer of the Midwest. Minnesota. Within our state is the northern city which every media weather outlet uses to crown us the champion of

winter brutality. International Falls.

We also have people, such as my son and other brave Minnesotan athletes who still wear gym shorts to and from practice. Our kids don't have tans, those are wind burns. We laugh at the audacity of Mother Nature to harsh our mellow of fishing on our 10,000 lakes. She brings ice, we bring augers; and adult beverages that go well over ice.

It's a rouse. Are the rosy cheeks from the winter winds or the adult beverages? Perhaps a bit of both.

She brings ice to the streets and a large dump of snow to the lanes and we develop gas-powered sleds and thumb

red noses as we call it winter recreation and step out into the elements with great excitement and frivolity.

A few weeks ago, the wind chills were at -57 degrees, and really, I don't even know why they give it a number at that point. Five minutes + exposed skin = amputation of exposed digit. End of story. Recently we have been enjoying those "dangerous" temperatures and bordering on "Holy Mother of God" temps.

As I am writing this, there are 72 days, 18 hours and 16 minutes until spring 2017. As you are reading this I hope you will take joy in the fact that there are only 10 more Mondays until that third one

in March. And then we will be "oooohing and ahhhhing" with the brief dethawing process that leads us into "dog days" where we will be thinking, "Holy Mother of God" it's so HOT.

I love the attitude of Minnesotans. No snow days, no postal carrier losing any extremities, no day too cold or too hot. We make the best of the inevitable.

The sun bakes and we set out tollhouse cookies. The winter freezes and set ourselves over holes in the lake. And everywhere in between we're heard saying, "Yah, well, ya know, it is minny soda."

Be careful out there. No. Really. BUNDLE UP.

New production underway at Little Theater



Little Theatre of Owatonna announces the cast for its upcoming romantic comedy, "Prelude To A Kiss". The show is directed by Craig Berg with technical direction by Mary Butler Fraser.

The Cast:
Nate Chesney as Peter, Austin Parrish as Taylor, Emily Schoenbeck as Rita, Jim Holten as Tom, Maria Diaz as Mrs. Boyle, Tim Fitzgerald as Dr. Boyle, Linda Karnauskas as the Minister, Kathy Purdie as Aunt Dorothy, Curt Jorgensen as Uncle Fred, Bill Wood as the Old

Man, Waiter/Waitress tbd, Amber Boettcher as Leah.

Peter and Rita immediately fall for each other and decide to get married. But during their wedding reception, a feeble old man asks Rita for a kiss. While nothing seems wrong at first,

Peter soon realizes that the kiss caused Rita and the man to switch bodies. As he searches for a way to switch them back, Peter must face the dilemma of loving Rita in the body of a terminally ill man or staying married to a stranger posing as his wife.

Show dates will be February 17-19 and February 24-26.

"Prelude To A Kiss" is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., of New York.

Former dairy princess takes on role at extension



Kendra Schroeder

By **RICK BUSSLER**
Publisher

A former Steele County dairy princess is taking on a new role as extension educator for agricultural production systems in Steele and Rice counties.

Kendra Schroeder of Owatonna has been named to the vacant position on a tempo-

rary basis until a permanent replacement is named later this spring. The extension job has been vacant since Karen Anderson left to accept a similar position in McLeod County last summer.

Though she'll be in the position for only four months, Schroeder is delighted to take on the challenge. "I'm excited to be in this role even if it's for a short time," she said.

Schroeder is no stranger to agriculture in Steele County. She grew up on a dairy farm south of Owatonna and has served as a county dairy princess for several years.

In addition to the local dairy association, Schroeder was also involved in 4-H and FFA. She graduated from Owatonna in 2013.

She continues to live on the family farm and helps her parents milk 35 dairy cows. "When I'm not working my day job, I'm out there in the mornings," she said, adding she also milks at nighttime and on weekends.

Schroeder decided to turn her passion for agriculture into a career and attended the University of Wisconsin-River Falls where she obtained a bachelors degree in dairy science last year.

She will have a busy four months

coming up as she will help the extension office with several key spring events, including Crop Days in both Steele and Rice counties and the North America Farm and Power Show in Owatonna.

"I can't wait to start meeting people and to make a difference," Schroeder said. "I love working with people."

Extension work is attractive to Schroeder because of the varied opportunities to learn about many different areas of agriculture. "We can help people set up a back yard chicken coup or take out a loan to start a farm," she said.

She likes the diversity that agriculture provides. "There is agriculture everywhere you go and it's always changing," Schroeder said.

Agriculture, Schroeder says, involves coming up with new and innovative ways to keep feeding the growing population.

After her short stint with extension, Schroeder isn't sure where she'll end up. But she hopes to find a similar type of job that will be more permanent.

She plans to get married later this year.

HometownLiving

Community Calendar

Event Spotlight: 2017 Minnesota Pheasants elections

The annual meeting and election of officers of the Steele Co. Chapter of Minnesota Pheasants for 2017 will be held at the KC Hall, 820 S. Elm Street, Owatonna on Tuesday, Feb. 7 with social hour at 6:30 p.m. and meeting at 7 p.m.

Come hear what they've accomplished in the last year and what future projects they'll undertake in the new one.

If you're interested in becoming a board member contact President John Hobart at 456-4213 or just show up, as they take nominations from the floor.

PHOTO MEMORY



LAST YEAR AROUND THIS TIME

Archived staff photo by Anna Segner

Medford School's speech team captains Matthew Swanson (12), Jacob Pleschourt (11), Amber Sobrack (11) and Kyra Rahn (10) were excited for their 2016 season to start.

FOR THE RECORD



HAPPENING NOW

Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

The Owatonna church choirs of Sacred Heart and St. Joseph parishes performed their third annual Christmas concert in honor of the season. This year the concert was held at of St. Joseph and directed by Teresea Wolfe and Carol Hodepp.

AUSTIN/MOWER COUNTY

Jan. 10th: (All day Lyle Vol. Fire Dept Meeting)
9am - 10am Hormel Retirees Breakfast
9am - 11am Open Dome Family Time
12pm - 1pm Tuesdays with Toastmasters
6pm - 7pm Grand Meadow City Council Mtg
Jan. 11th: (All day Lyle City Council Meeting)
11:30am - 12:30pm SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House
6:30pm - 8pm Adult Hockey, Riverside Arena
7pm - 8pm Nat'l Alliance on Mental Illness Peer Support Group, First Congregational Church, Austin
Jan. 12th:
3pm - 6pm Ski and Snowshoe Rental, Jay C Hormel Nature Center, 1304 21st St NE, Austin
6pm - 7pm Brownsdale PL Puzzle Night
Jan. 13th: (All day Austin Packer Classic PeeWee A, B, and C Tyler Brady Memorial)
10am - 5pm Second Floor Gallery Show - Paul Walech Roth, Austin ArtWorks Center, 300 Main St N, Austin, 11:30am - 12:30pm SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House
4pm - 7pm People First Aktion Club Chicken Dumppling Soup and Chili Supper, Mower County Senior Center
5pm - 7pm 2nd Floor Gallery Opening - Paul Walech-Roth, Austin ArtWorks Center, 300 Main St N, Austin
5:15pm - 7:15pm Bingo, Austin VFW
Jan. 14th: (All day Austin Packer Classic PeeWee A, B, and C Tyler Brady Memorial)
10am - 3pm Second Floor Gallery Show - Paul Walech Roth, Austin ArtWorks Center, 300 Main St N, Austin
10:30am - 11:30am Saturday Science Experience: Collecting Data - Write It Down!, Austin Public Library
7pm - 10pm Austin Bruins vs Coulee Region Chill, Riverside Arena, 501 12th St NE, Austin
7:30pm - 10pm Denny and the DC Drifters Dance Party, Historic Paramount Theatre
Jan. 15th: (All day Austin Packer Classic PeeWee A, B, and C Tyler Brady Memorial)
1pm - 3pm Grand Meadow Open Gym
1pm - 2:30pm Riverside Figure Skating Club - Basic Skills, Riverside Arena, 501 2nd Ave NE, Austin
2:30pm - 5pm Riverside Figure Skating Club - Riverside Arena
Jan. 16th: (All day EDA Meeting)
11:30am - 12:30pm SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House
5:15pm - 7:15pm Bingo, Austin VFW
Jan. 17th:
10am - 11am Hearth and Home Series - Flood Walls in a Former Swampland, Hormel Historic Home, Austin
10am - 5pm 2nd Floor Gallery Show- Paul Walech Roth, Austin ArtWorks Center, 300 Main St N, Austin
12pm - 1pm Toastmasters, Hormel Foods Office

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

Jan. 10th:
All day BP Card Club & Luncheon
All day Steele Co Commission
10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Storytime
2:30pm BBPU Comission Meeting, City Center
4:30pm Fire Comission Meeting
Jan. 11th:
10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Story time
4:30pm Econoic Development Auth. Meeting, City Center
Jan. 12th
4:30pm Police Comission Meeting
Jan. 17th:
10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Storytime
4:45pm - 5:45pm BP Boys N Girls Club Brd Mtg
5:30pm Ambulance Comission Meeting

ALBERT LEA/FREEBORN Co

Jan. 10th:
8:30am - 9:30am Shell Rock Watershed Board Meeting
5:15pm - 5:45pm Yoga Nidra for Children, Brookside Education Center, 211 W Richway Dr, Albert Lea
6pm - 9pm Rock Gym, 211 W Richway Dr Albert Lea
6:15pm - 7:30pm Yoga For Beginners, Christ Episcopal Church, 204 Fountain St, Albert Lea
6:30pm - 7:45pm Gentle Movement Yoga, Brookside Education Center, 211 W Richway Dr, Albert Lea
Jan. 11th:
4am - 6:30am Soccer Skills & Games(3rd-7thGrade), Albert Lea Family Y, 2021 W Main St, Albert Lea
3:30pm - 4:30pm Staff Mentee Meeting (Elementary)
4:15pm - 5:15pm Beginning Yoga, Sibley Elementary School, 1501 W Front St, Albert Lea
Jan. 12th:
10am - 11am Fountain Lake Readers Book Club
10:30am - 11:30am ALPL Story time
5pm - 7pm Headstart
5:30pm - 6:30pm Zumba
6pm - 7pm Restorative Yoga, Essence of Yoga, 136 S Broadway Ave, Albert Lea
6:30pm - 8:30pm Rag Quilting, Brookside Education Center
Jan. 13th:
6pm - 9pm Rock Climbing Open Gym, Albert Lea
Jan. 14th:
6pm - 9pm Rock Climbing Open Gym, Albert Lea
Jan.16th:
Library Closed to Observe Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.
10am - 11:15am Yoga For Beginners, Christ Episcopal Church, 204 Fountain St, Albert Lea
10:30am - 11:30am ALPL Story time
5:30pm - 6:30pm Zumba Toning, Lakeview Elementary School, 902 Abbott St, Albert Lea, MN 56007, USA
6pm - 7:15pm Yoga For Beginners
6:30pm - 8:30pm NHS Induction Ceremony, ALHS Auditorium
Jan. 17th:
Tue Jan 17, 2017 - Sat Feb 25, 2017 Where: Albert Lea Public Library, 211 E Clark St, Albert Lea, MN 56007, United States
10:30am - 11:15am Storytime, Albert Lea Public Library, 211 East Clark Street, Albert Lea
3:30pm - 4:30pm Let's Draw & Paint, Southwest Middle School, 1601 W Front St, Albert Lea
5:30pm - 6:30pm Parks and Recreation Board Meeting
5:30pm - 6:30pm Zumba, Lakeview Elementary School, 902 Abbott St, Albert Lea
6pm - 8pm Beginning Crochet, Brookside Education Center, 211 W Richway Dr, Albert Lea, MN 56007, USA
6pm - 7pm Nonfiction Book Club
6pm - 9pm Rock Gym, 211 W Richway Dr Albert Lea
6:15pm - 7:30pm Yoga For Beginners, Christ Episcopal Church, 204 Fountain St, Albert Lea
6:30pm - 7:45pm Gentle Movement Yoga, Brookside Education Center, 211 W Richway Dr, Albert Lea

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Jan. 10th:
9:30am - 10:30am OPL It's TALE TIME!
10am - 1pm WCPL Story Time/Crafts
7pm - 8pm Steele Co: Co Brd Mtg, Admin Center, BR
7pm - 8pm Veterans Open Roundtable, Good Shephard Lutheran Church, Owa, 2nd Tues Sept - Jun
Jan. 11th:
4pm - 5pm Medford Veterans Committee Mtg
Jan. 12th:
2pm - 3pm OPL Independent & World Films
2pm - 2:30pm The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
5:30pm-6:30pm Owatonna Airport Commission, airport Lounge
6:30pm - 7:30pm OPL Family Story Time
Jan. 14th: (All day Medford ED)
Jan.16th: (All day WC Study Club)
2pm - 2:30pm The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
7pm - 8pm Medford Planning & Zoning Brd Mtg, City Hall
Jan. 17th: (All day Hope Curbside Recycling S of 42nd Av)
9:30am - 10:30am OPL It's TALE TIME!
10am - 11:45am OPL So Many Books...So Little Time Book Club
10am - 1pm WCPL Story Time/Crafts
4:30pm - 5:30pm OPL Brd Mtg, Gainey Rm
6:30pm - 7:30pm Court St Anne Catholic Daughters Meeting, Medford
7pm - 8pm Owatonna City Council, Council Chambers, City Hall

ELLENDALE/GENEVA

Jan. 10th:
7pm - 8:20pm NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl
Jan. 12th:
5:30pm-6:40pm NRHEG Yoga, DAPE RM
Jan. 17th:
7pm - 8pm NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7pm - 8pm NRHEG Zumba, DAPE Rm
Jan.16th:
6:20pm - 7:40pm NRHEG Yoga, Media Center Ellndl
Jan. 17th:
7pm - 8:20pm NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl

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-BAR BINGO MONDAY @6:30 PM
-EUCHRE: JAN. 14 FEB. 25
(1 P.M. 2 PERSON TEAM)
-BLOOMIN' GRAPEVINE WINE CLUB
TUES. 7-8:30 P.M. @ J&H
FEE CHARGED. 21 AND OVER.
JAN. 24 FEB. 7 MARCH 14
APRIL 4
MAY 9: BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
BENEFIT
7-9 P.M. @ J&H

-CUSTOMER APPRECIATION
DAY: APRIL 1ST
(31 YEARS IN BUSINESS) !
-CRUISE FOR CANCER
RIDE...JUNE 24
-STREET DANCE: JULY 3RD
-JULY 4TH : OPEN 10AM -
CLOSE
-B.O.B. RIDE: "TOYS FOR
TOTS" JULY 22
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CRIME BRIEF

BP man arrested on warrants, meth possession

A Blooming Prairie man wanted on warrants faces new trouble for allegedly possessing methamphetamine.

Larry Haberman, 45, has been charged with fifth-degree possession of meth after officers found him with suspected meth during a warrant arrest last week.

Owatonna Police went to Pro-Pet Thursday night where Haberman is an employee. Officers arrested him on warrants out of Dodge County. During the arrest, he took his possessions, including a winter coat, out of a locker.

As standard procedure, of-

ficers searched Haberman’s coat where they found a clear bag containing a crystal-like substance that he admitted was meth. Officers also found a straw inside a pocket with white residue believed to be meth. A subsequent drug kit confirmed that both substances were meth.



Larry Haberman,

New Year’s Eve bust lands hefty stash of meth

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

A New Year’s Eve traffic stop has landed a hefty stash of methamphetamine in a vehicle traveling through Steele County.

The State Patrol found a package believed to contain 20 pounds of meth in a vehicle going northbound on Interstate 35 around 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 31.

Jose Luis Flores, 24, of Minneapolis has been charged with aggravated first-degree controlled substance. If convicted, he faces at least 86 months in prison and a maximum sentence of 40 years and a \$1 million fine.

While monitoring traffic on I-35, a trooper saw a vehicle with dark tinted windows. Prior to making the stop, the trooper noted the windows appeared to be darker than 50 percent. After pulling over the vehicle, the trooper found the window tint to be at 16 percent, which is well below the percentage allowed in Minnesota.

During the initial contact, the trooper found Flores to be nervous, looking down and away from him. A strong odor of an air freshener was noted from the inside of the car as there were fresheners in the vent, the dash and top of the center console.

Flores told the trooper he was coming from California, which is a known source region for

narcotics. The officer found no luggage visible inside the car.

The driver granted the trooper consent to search the vehicle for drugs. The patrol’s K-9, Diesel, conducted a sniff of the car. Diesel alerted to the odor of drugs at the front lower end of the passenger side of the car and on the driver’s side rear passenger door, according to court records.

During a search of the car, troopers found three plastic heat-sealed bags of suspected meth in the rear driver’s side passenger door, the complaint alleges. Troopers also found four plastic heat-sealed bags in another area of the car. The meth weighed about 20 pounds and has a street value of at least \$500,000.

In court last week, the judge set bail at \$100,000 with conditions or \$200,000 without conditions. He is scheduled to be back in court Thursday.



Jose Luis Flores

Domestic. Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 400 block of Pebble Beach Dr. NE at 11:26 p.m. They arrested a subject at the scene.

Dec. 24

Vandalism. Property damage was reported in the 200 block of Rice St. E. at 6:31 a.m. and in the 1700 block of Crestview Lane NE at 11:39 a.m.

Theft. Officer took a theft report in the 400 block of Glendale St. NW at 11:27 a.m.

Dec. 25

Disturbances. Officers responded to disturbances in the 1500 block of St. Paul Rd. NE. at 8:53 a.m. and in the 200 block of Chestnut Ave. NE at 10:37 p.m.

Domestic. Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of Rose St. W. at 11:58

a.m. They made an arrest at the scene.

Burglary. Police began an investigation of a burglary in the 1800 block of Creekside Dr. NE at 2:03 p.m.

Dec. 26

Theft. A vehicle was reported stolen from the 200 block of Vine St. E. at 5:30 a.m.

Crash. Officers responded to a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage at Hoffman Dr. NW and North St. W. at 1:37 p.m. They issued a citation to one of the drivers.

Warrants. Police made warrant arrests in the 100 block of Rice St. E. at 2:26 p.m. and in the 600 block of Bridge St. W. at 6:37 p.m.

Dec. 27

Warrant. At 1:43 p.m., officer arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant in the 100 block of Landmark Dr. NE.

Burglary. Police responded to a burglary in the 900 block of Brae Burn Place NE at 3:54 p.m.

Theft. Officer took a theft report in the 300 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 6:19 p.m.

Dec. 28

Traffic Arrest. Police arrested a motorist following a traffic stop at Bridge St. W. and Interstate 35 at 12:07 p.m.

Vandalism. Property damage was reported in the 200 block of Locust Ave. NE at 12:30 p.m.

Shoplifting. At 12:30 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W.

Theft. Officer took a theft report in the 200 block of Broadway St. E. at 1:03 p.m.

Civil. Police assisted with a civil matter in the 500 block of Walnut Ave. S. at 3:03 p.m.

Warrant. At 6:20 p.m., police made a warrant arrest in the 400 block of Cedar Ave. N.

Dec. 29

Death. Police began a death investigation in the 2400 block of St. Paul Rd. NE at 7:47 a.m.

Criminal Sex. At 11:26 a.m., officers responded to an incident of criminal sexual conduct in the 400 block of State Ave. NW.

Trespassing. Officer responded to a trespassing incident in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 4:27 p.m. Police issued a citation.

Theft. Officer took a theft report in the 1300 block of Cottage Lane SE at 4:33 p.m.

Robbery. Police responded to a robbery at Broadway St. E. and Grove Ave. N. at 11:10 p.m.

Dec. 30

Shoplifting. A shoplifting incident occurred in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 2:23 p.m.

Warrant. Officer made a warrant arrest in the 200 block of 22nd St. NW at 7:40 p.m.

Dec. 31

Traffic Arrest. At 1:08 a.m., police arrested a motorist following a traffic stop in the 700 block of State Ave. NW.

Warrants. Police made warrant arrests in the 200 block of 12th St. NE at 9:14 a.m., in the 200 block of 16th St. SW at 10:16 a.m. and in the 500 block of State Ave. at 12:45 p.m.

Civil. Officer assisted with a civil matter in the 500 block of 18th St. SE at 3:57 p.m.

Jan. 1

Domestic. Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 400 block of 4th St. SE in Medford at 2:44 a.m.

Mental Health. At 3:51 a.m., police assisted with a mental health crisis in the 2700 block of 3rd Ave. NE.

Theft. Police received theft reports from the 2200 block of 30th St. NW at 2:28 p.m. and the 200 block of 12th St. NE at 4:31 p.m.

Jan. 2

Trespassing. Police arrested a

subject for trespassing in the 200 block of Locust Ave. NE at 9:22 a.m.

Vandalism. Property damage was reported in the 2200 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 9:37 a.m. and the 200 block of South St. E. at 3:56 p.m.

Jan. 3

Shoplifting. At 9:19 a.m., officer issued a citation for shoplifting in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W.

Fraud. A citizen reported being the victim of a fraud incident in the 400 block of Oak Ave. N. at 12:58 p.m.

Property Damage. Officer took a vandalism report in the 300 block of Main St. E. at 2:19 p.m.

Hit and Run. A hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 300 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 2:25 p.m.

Thefts. Police took theft reports in the 300 block of Florence Ave. NW at 12:14 p.m., the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 1:48 p.m. and the 500 block of State Ave. NW at 3:17 p.m.

Jan. 4

Child Protection. Police received a child protection report from the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 12:28 p.m.

Jan. 5

Criminal Sex. Police began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 10:36 a.m.

Fraud. Officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 2400 block of Bridge St. W. at 1:09 p.m.

Warrant. At 8:26 p.m., officer arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant in the 800 block of 24th Ave. NW.

COURT NEWS Steele County

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of Dec. 19 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding:

Benjamin E. Warner, 29, St. Cloud, previously appeared and was convicted of felony controlled substance crime. He was sentenced to \$131, chemical dependency evaluation and 1 year in St. Cloud State Prison.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Dec. 19 – 23:

Blooming Prairie
Police Department

Cody S. Claey's, 19, Waseca, speeding, \$121; Jaymie L. Livingston, 20, Faribault, revoked license and no insurance, \$481; Tracy L. Rathai, 53, Wells, parking violation and expired tabs, \$131.

MN State Patrol
Rochester

Evelyn C. Alvear, 25, Brownsville, TX, no license, \$181; Alyssa J. Bethke, 23, New Richland, unsafe lane usage, \$131; Taylor L. Brooks, 26, St. Louis Park, speeding, \$131; Edgar E. Jimenez Sanchez, 25, Omaha, NE, speeding, \$281; Jeffrey A. Jones, 56, Sun City, AZ, seat belt, \$106; Robin G. Jones, 51, Sun City, AZ, seat belt, \$106;

Jesse A. Manuel, 28, Albert Lea, suspended license, \$281; Glenn R. Martin, 52, Austin, speeding, \$131; Saiaisha L. McKenzie, 32, Clive, IA, suspended license, \$281;

Philip R. Meyer, 28, Westchester, IL, speeding, \$141; Richard D. Paquin, 61, Owatonna, unsafe passing, \$131; Alejandro G. Perez, 44, Minneapolis, no license, \$181; Nicholas A. Poe, 19, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Charlotte I. Sietsema, 68, Bingham Lake, illegal u-turn, \$131;

Jorge C. Torres, 37, Faribault, speeding, \$121.

Owatonna Police
Department

Michael P. Ballman, 18, Rochester, suspended license, \$281; Cassandra S. Britt, 24, Owatonna, failure to stop for traffic control signal and suspended license, \$331;

Joseph B. Conger, 27, Marysville, WA, disorderly conduct, \$281 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Jesse J. Heaser, 35, Owatonna, DWI, \$406, Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory, attend MADD impact panel and 1 year of supervised probation;

Hugo Hernandez-Rojas, 28, Owatonna, failure to stop for school bus, \$381 and 6 months of unsupervised probation; Justin L. Himle, 21, Owatonna, domestic assault, \$181, 2 days in county jail, domestic abuse evaluation, no possession of firearms and 1 year of supervised probation; Ron H. Jaeger, 33, Owatonna, domestic assault, \$131 and 180 days in county jail;

Percy L. Lacey, 53, Minneapolis, cancelled license, \$381 and 2 years of unsupervised probation; Aaron C. Litke, 30, Owatonna, speeding, \$201;

Dakota J. Nelson, 18, Owatonna, possession of marijuana and paraphernalia, \$281; Heather S. Olson, 32, Blooming Prairie, suspended license, \$181; Steven M. Olson, 41, LeSueur, controlled substance crime, stay of adjudication, \$300, 10 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, cognitive skill training, mental health evaluation, 80 hours of community service and 3 years of supervised probation; Cassandra M. Paul, 17, Owatonna, speeding, \$121;

Lorita D. Placencia, 40, Owatonna, revoked license and no insurance, \$481; Breanna J. Rathman, 21, St. James, controlled substance crime, stay of adjudication, \$381, 40 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, mental health evaluation and 3 years of supervised probation; Brady D. Seitz, 22, Colorado Springs, CO, improper information on license, \$101; Riley D. Thompson, 21, Owatonna, speeding, \$121;

Kelly J. Voll, 48, Owatonna, failure to obey traffic control device, \$131; Chris A. Vruno, 29, Preston, false name to peace officer, \$131 and 90 days in county jail; Skylar S. Washington, 21, Waseca, stop sign, \$131.

Steele County
Sheriff's Office

Jenna R. Baldrige, 20, Englewood, CO, speeding, \$221; Torrey L. Delaney, 31, Chicago, IL, suspended license, \$281; Bridget E. Dickie, 25, Waseca, speeding, \$221; Gabriel Giet, 20, Faribault, speeding, \$121;

Ashley M. Griep-Roden, 31, Waseca, speeding, \$121; Kasey A. Grunwald, 23, Medford, stop sign, \$131; Taylor L. Hoehn, 29, Eden Prairie, speeding, \$221; Julie T. Johnson, 49, Hartland, expired license and speeding, \$221; Monnesha A. Johnson, 25, New Orleans, LA, no license, \$181; Jodi L. Keck, 52, Owatonna, speeding, \$121;

David A. Kern, 32, Faribault, controlled substance crime, stay of adjudication, \$300, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, 80 hours of community service and 3 years of supervised probation; Haylee E. Kremmin, 23, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Guadalupe Maldonado, 34, Medford, speeding, \$121; Joshua P. Moriarity, 35, Claremont, speeding, \$121; Jassmin C. Priester, 27, Plymouth, no child passenger restraint system, \$131;

Roger L. Quimby, 65, West

Concord, speeding, \$121;

Martin Vazquez, 36, Medford, malicious punishment of a child and domestic assault, \$381, 30 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, maintain employment, chemical dependency evaluation, no contact with victim, predatory offender registration, no possession of firearms, DANCO and 3 years of supervised probation; Adrian Vela, 55, Owatonna, failure to stop for traffic control signal and improper information on license, \$151; James A. Wilson, 55, Minneapolis, speeding, \$131.

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Dec. 26 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding:

Benjamin R. Drabek, 22, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony criminal sexual conduct. He was sentenced to \$1,081, 180 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, submit to polygraph examination as directed, no unsupervised contact with minors, predatory offender registration, attend sex offender program, no access of Internet without approval, no contact with victim, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments and 7 years of supervised probation.

Bradley J. Richards, 31, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony sale of narcotics. The defendant was sentenced to \$10,081, 744 days in county jail, complete treatment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, no possession of firearms and 10 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Dec. 26 – 30:

MN State Patrol
Rochester

Juan F. Alejo, 19, Austin, revoked license, underage possession of alcohol and possession of marijuana, \$531; Erick E. Ambriz, 17, Owatonna, speeding, \$131; Cameron C. Crandell, 61, Lonsdale, speeding, \$121; Randall D. Dague, 51, Baldwin, WI, speeding, \$121;

Dylan W. Deneen, 26, Faribault, speeding, \$141; Megan D. Gawlik, 18, West Des Moines, IA, speeding, \$131; Queairra A. Handson Allen, 25, St. Paul, windshield violation, \$121;

Hassan N. Hassan, 24, Owatonna, suspended license, \$281; Kyle R. Hendricks, 23, Jordan, window tint violation, \$131; Nathan A. Henson, 34, Warsaw, speeding, \$141; James C. Herrick, 50, Austin, speeding, \$121; Heidi E. Laatsch, 37, Oconomowoc, WI, speeding, \$221;

Nicholas D. McMullen, 31, Cleveland, speeding, \$121; Alyssa M. Paulson, 28, Richfield, speeding, \$131; Sydney G. Root, 20, Waseca, possession of paraphernalia, \$131;

Mollie A. Schmidt, 44, Mankato, speeding, \$131; McKenna S. Schouweiler, 18, Dodge Center, speeding, \$121; Dustin L. Sjuts, 31, Humphrey, NE, DWI, \$381 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Matthew L. Storing, 32, Owatonna, possession of paraphernalia and seat belt, \$156;

Christina M. Turner, 33, Hastings, speeding, \$141; Jose M. Vazquez, 26, Minneapolis, revoked license, \$281; Dustin J. Wayne, 32, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Michelle M. Zvorak, 33, Ellendale, speeding, \$141.

Owatonna Police
Department

Leonardo Avalos, 21, Owatonna, revoked license, turn signal violation and possession of marijuana, \$471; John R. Bulver, 29, Owatonna, no license, \$181; Krystal Correa, 20, Owatonna, no

The following individuals as they have active warrants in Steele County. The sheriff makes this information available as a public service.

- Lennie St. Martin – burglary – no bail
- Anthony Stapleton – revoked license - \$2,000 bail
- Joseph Stenbakken – contempt of court - \$500 bail
- Bashir Sudi – theft by check - \$10,000 bail
- Pablo Tagle – theft by swindle - \$1,000 bail
- Brandon Tate – domestic assault - \$2,000 bail
- Alvin Taylor – DWI - \$3,000 bail
- John Tedd – domestic assault – no bail
- Allen Telschow – DWI – no bail
- Ramiro Terrones – DWI - \$500 bail

- Norma Thibodeau – dishonored check - \$1,000 bail
- James Thomas – theft – no bail
- Carla Thompkins – stalking - \$35,000 bail
- Larry Thompson – obstruction - \$3,000 bail
- Timothy Tillman – assault - \$20,000 bail
- Richard Tople – DWI – no bail
- Enrique Torres – theft - \$300 bail
- Julio Touchet Campos – criminal sexual conduct - \$250,000 bail
- Jaime Tovar – DWI – no bail
- Jeremy Trevino – drugs - \$500,000 bail

ACTIVE WARRANTS
Disclosing active warrants promotes public safety and aids in the identification & apprehension of those individuals wanted on a warrant.

PUBLIC SAFETY: from page 3B

license and no insurance, \$381; Jaime R. De Leon, 31, Blooming Prairie, suspended license, \$281; Derek J. Doty, 27, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Jason L. Gardner, 43, hit and run, \$131 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Vernon A. Johnson, 39, Owatonna, seat belt and possession of marijuana and paraphernalia, \$181; Gilberto B. Luna, 19, Owatonna, theft, 10 days in county jail; Roojuta R. Patel, 36, Owatonna, speeding, \$221; Monica Roman, 18, Owatonna, no insurance, \$281; Bailey M. Rothstein, 19, Waseca, failure to yield right of way, \$131; Jared T. Scheer, 35, Byron, expired tabs, \$111; Jahnya A. Schinagel, 19, minor consumption, \$181; Warren H. Schley, 71, Owatonna, indecent exposure, \$391; Brandy G. Schmitt, 20, Owatonna, controlled substance crime, stay of adjudication, \$81, 1 day in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation, no possession of firearms, obtain permission to leave the state, 200 hours of community service and 3 years of supervised probation; Theresa M. Schoolmeesters, 22, failure to yield right of way and no insurance, \$331; Mariah A. Sleuwenhoek, 19, Faribault, controlled substance crime, stay of adjudication, \$81, 49 days in county jail, complete treatment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, obtain GED, obtain employment, no possession of firearms and 3 years of supervised probation; Matthew D. Swenson, 34, Owatonna, unlawful possession of legend drugs, \$131 and 30 days in county jail; Marcos A. Trevino, 24, Owatonna, revoked license, \$391 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Javier G. Vazquez-Galan, 35, Owatonna, no license, \$181; Rebecca R. Vikla, 28, Lonsdale, shoplifting, \$81, diversion program and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Beau P. Wanner, 29, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Carter J. Warner, 16, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; William J. Wieseler, 29, Owatonna, theft, \$190.96; Kevin J. Zimny, 26, Waseca, revoked license, \$281.

Steele County Sheriff's Office

Madisonn R. Aubin, 24, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Rachel A. Dominguez, 24, speeding, \$121; Danielle A. Draughn, 41, Coon Rapids, speeding, \$141; Kalonda M. Fisher, 22, St. Peter, no license, \$181; Joshua Gaytan, 24, Hampton, IA, speeding, \$121; Jevon T. Hunter, 23, Waseca, speeding, \$131; Dylan N. Jones, 18, Faribault, cancelled registration, possession of paraphernalia and marijuana, speeding and suspended license, \$281; Chiquita D. Jordan, 29, Peoria, IL, speeding, \$221; Sophie J. Lepp, 20, St. James, speeding, \$121; Nicole L. Melton, 30, Austin, speeding, \$131; Sopaula Nou, 30, Rochester, speeding, \$141; Edward I. Persell, 51, New Richmond, cancelled license, \$181 and 2 years of unsupervised probation; Oscar J. Sletten, 45, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Diana Z. Villarreal, 33, Owatonna, no child passenger restraint system, \$131.

POLICE BLOTTER Dodge County

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office handled 305 complaints during the week of Dec. 21 – 27. Some of them include:

Dec. 21

Medical. At 5:25 p.m., deputies responded to a golf cart accident resulting in a medical emergency in the 500 block of Hwy. St. E. in Dodge Center. Disturbance. A Dodge Center resident wanted assistance from deputies with removing a male subject from her home on Central Ave. N. in Dodge Center at 11:51 p.m.

Dec. 22

Juvenile. Deputies received a juvenile complaint from the 200 block of 2nd St. W. in Claremont at 3:06 a.m. Sex Offense. Deputies began an investigation of a sex offense on 5th Ave. NW in Dodge Center at 6:25 a.m. Civil. Deputy assisted with a vehicle repossession in the 700 block of 10th Ave. NW in Dodge Center at 2:21 p.m.

Dec. 23

Civil. At 10:06 a.m., deputy assisted with a civil matter in the 200 block of Elm St. N. in Claremont. Juvenile. Deputies received a juvenile complaint from 6th Ave. SE in Hayfield at 2:10 p.m. Narcotics. Deputy made a traffic stop and found narcotics at 4th St. NW and 1st Ave. NW in Dodge Center at 8:10 p.m. Electrical. Deputies and Dodge Center Fire responded to a transformer that was sparking and arcing in an alley on 2nd Ave. NW in Dodge Center at 8:25 p.m. Vehicles Off-the-Road. Deputies responded to 14 vehicles that ran off the road into the ditch throughout the county.

Snow Removal. Deputies issued 15 snow removal emergency citations throughout the county.

Dec. 24

Larceny. A citizen reported a lost package in the 62600 block of 130th Ave. in Claremont at 9:37 a.m. Suspicion. Deputies found suspicious activity in the 600 block of 1st Ave. NE in Dodge Center at 4:31 p.m.

Dec. 27

Burglary. Deputies began an investigation of a burglary in the 62000 block of 130th Ave. in Claremont at 8:07 a.m. Animal Neglect. At 9:33 a.m., deputies received a report of horses not having hay for over a week in the 17800 block of 635th St. in Dodge Center. Deputies couldn't find the incident. Fraud. Deputy took a report of a fraud incident at the Court House at 3:51 p.m. Suspicious Activity. Deputies responded to a suspicious vehicle on Main St. W. in Hayfield at 7:52 p.m.

Dec. 30

Welfare. Deputy completed a welfare check in the 500 block of 1st Ave. SE in Hayfield at 9:23 a.m.

Dec. 31

Disturbance. Deputies responded to a disturbance in the 21000 block of 602nd St. in Dodge Center at 1:32 a.m. Suspicion. A Dodge Center resident called deputies at 5:05 p.m. after he had a possible sighting of a missing juvenile in the 400 block of 2nd Ave. NW.

Jan. 1

Suspicion. Deputies responded to suspicious activity in the 20900 block of County Hwy. 24 in West Concord at 6:18 p.m. Disturbance. At 11:03 p.m., a Claremont citizen called deputies for help with someone not leaving his home in the 300 block of East St. N.

Jan. 2

Juvenile. Deputies received a juvenile complaint from the 400 block of Hwy. St. W. in Dodge Center at 12:40 p.m. Welfare. Deputy completed a welfare check on a possible civil issue in the 200 block of Oak St. N. in Claremont at 1:17 p.m. Larceny. At 1:17 p.m., deputy took a larceny report on 2nd St. SE in Dodge Center.

Jan. 3

Repossession. Deputy assisted with a repossession of a vehicle in the 700 block of 2nd Ave. SE in Dodge Center at 10:38 a.m. gan an investigation of animal neglect in the 100 block of Front St. E. in Claremont at 3:09 p.m.

COURT NEWS Dodge County

The following case was heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Dec. 19 with Judge Jodi L. Williamson presiding:

Christopher D. Tucker, 43, Dodge Center, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of Marijuana. He was sentenced to \$1,155, 91 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, cognitive skill training, maintain employment, no possession of firearms, 100 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Dec. 19 – 26:

Dodge County Sheriff's Office

Paul E. Adkins, 51, Mantorville, parking violation, \$32; Umalkair Y. Amare, 43, Rochester, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$100 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without conviction;



STEELE COUNTY DEPUTY SHERIFF

The Steele County Sheriff's Office is accepting applications for a full-time Deputy Sheriff. General duties consist of patrol, service of civil process, warrant service, court bailiff, and response to requests for service. Shifts may vary according to schedule needs.

Applicant must possess or be eligible for a Minnesota Peace Officers Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) License and must possess a current Minnesota driver's license.

Applications may be obtained through the Steele County Sheriff's Office - 204 East Pearl Street, Owatonna; phone 507-444-3805 or visit www.co.steele.mn.us.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED AT THE STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, BY 3:00 PM LOCAL TIME ON THE CLOSING DATE OF JANUARY 18, 2017.

Duane R. Bartel, 56, Dodge Center, parking violation, \$32; Tanner J. Becvar, 20, Hayfield, speeding and no insurance, \$340; Celine F. Behnken, 23, Mantorville, speeding, \$140;

Kristine A. Bowman, 37, Dodge Center, parking violation, \$32; Jacob K. Cherry, 23, Stickney, IL, speeding, \$140; Roshewn T. Harrington, 20, Dodge Center, minor consumption, \$180; Robert J. Holtermann, 35, Dodge Center, parking violation, \$32; Najee K. Kennedy, 22, Roseville, speeding, \$280; Trevor M. Larsen, 25, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; Peter S. Moen, 34, West Concord, careless driving, stay of adjudication, \$200 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Matthew D. Narveson, 33, Hayfield, speeding, \$280; Debra J. Parker, 54, Hayfield, careless driving, stay of adjudication, \$100 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without conviction;

Sherri M. Rainone, 54, Owatonna, invalid license, no insurance and speeding, \$440; Hussein O. Rashid, 27, Rochester, revoked license, \$280; Christopher L. Roberts, 19, Mankato, minor consumption and fleeing a peace officer, \$280 and 1 year of probation; Laura A. Shae, 46, Owatonna, speeding, \$120; Aaron L. Vaith, 19, Mantorville, criminal sexual conduct, stay of adjudication, \$1,000, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, maintain employment and housing, no possession of pornography, no access to Internet without approval, no contact with victim, submit to polygraph examination as directed, 100 hours of community service and 15 years of supervised probation; Heather M. Vaith, 49, Mantorville, DWI, stay of adjudication, \$425, chemical assessment, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 1 year

of supervised probation; Cody E. Vihnica, 28, Dodge Center, parking violation, \$32; Matthew A. Winslow, 27, Dodge Center, speeding, \$130; Martin J. Zahn, 48, Byron, parking violation, \$32.

Kasson Police Department

Brady L. Binstock, 20, Dodge Center, suspended license, \$280; Benjamin Espinoza-Sota, 34, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; Andrew A. Fischer, 19, Rochester, speeding, \$140; Mark L. Freitag, 42, Kasson, seat belt, \$105; Daniel J. Hansen, 51, Kasson, seat belt, \$105;

Payton T. Hiller, 21, Kasson, revoked license, possession of paraphernalia and underage possession of liquor, \$430; Michael J. Jensen, 47, Byron, careless driving, \$380 and 1 year of probation; Dennis W. Johnson, 53, Lacrescent, parking violation, \$32; Jessica M. Meyer, 31, Mantorville, prohibited passing, \$130;

Andrew R. Neseth, 34, Mantorville, possession of marijuana and paraphernalia, \$180; Dale L. Oolman, 54, Mantorville, stop sign, \$130; Brandon A. Pfeifer, 20, Kasson, seat belt, \$105; Ammon L. Reidhead, 42, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; Tonya J. Rein, 41, Kasson, failure to stop for school bus, \$380; Cheri L. Rollo, 42, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; Scott G. Stroh, 29, Kasson, parking violation, \$32.

MN Dept. of Natural Resources

Cody D. Thom, 19, Byron, failure to present deer for registration, \$180.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Lynn J. Arndt, 68, Jeffers, speeding and unsafe lane usage, \$190; Patrick D. Berg, 64, Claremont, no registration and no breakaway brake system for trailer, \$380;

Alejo Cardenas-Gonzalez, 36, Kasson, suspended license and no insurance, \$480; Daniel A. Clore, 35, Owatonna, speeding, \$130; Amber L. Reese, 18, Stewartville, speeding, \$130; Matthew R. Schultz, 24, Mantorville, speeding, \$120; Dakota A. Taylor, 23, Wanamingo, suspended license, \$280; Nicholas J. Thompson, 16, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$120; Mitchell D. Vansickle, 29, Rochester, speeding, \$130.

West Concord Police Department

Stephanie A. Sell, 29, Rochester, speeding, \$120.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Dec. 26 – Jan. 2:

Dodge County Sheriff's Office

Tyler L. Britt, 31, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; Vincent P. Dombrowski, 21, Delafield, WI, unlawful passing and speeding, \$190; Richard J. Fritz, 47, Mantorville, parking violation, \$32; Matthew D. Garness, 27, Claremont, parking violation, \$32; Jason M. Gillard, 37, Kasson, speeding, \$140; Brian G. Head, 52, Dodge Center, parking violation, \$32; Ryan R. Jacobson, 30, Owatonna, invalid license, \$180; Samuel D. McPhail, 22, Pine Island, stop sign, \$130; Samuel H. Olive, 21, Hayfield, parking violation, \$32; Aaron D. Petersen, 18, Prior Lake, parking violation, \$32; Steven A. Petersen, 58, Lansing, parking violation, \$32;

Holly M. Sherman, 49, Sergeant, parking violation, \$32; Christopher P. Spelbrink, 46, Rochester, parking violation, \$32; Trent L. Weberg, 47, Owatonna, parking violation, \$32; Ronald K. Wilks Jr., 34, Hayfield, parking violation, \$32.

Kasson Police Department

Emily A. Johnson, 31, Dodge

Center, seat belt, \$105; Brandon M. Mendoza, 25, Rochester, revoked license and speeding, \$320; Stephen L. Olson, 41, Byron, failure to yield, \$180; Marlys M. Schultz, 53, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; Sheri R. Seipel-Mindermann, 47, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; Avery E. Thompson, 20, Kasson, seat belt, \$105.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Joellyn M. Arnfelt, 62, Mantorville, speeding, \$130; Christopher S. Castner, 43, Red Wing, seat belt, \$105; Christopher T. Decook, 42, Byron, over legal table weight, \$880; Derek M. Gifford, 28, Kasson, speeding, \$130; Shawn E. Hamrick, 19, Dodge Center, speeding, \$280; Elizabeth L. Horvath, 35, Lakewood, OH, speeding, \$140; Alexandra L. Prigge, 17, Byron, speeding, \$130; Lawrence A. Theis, 65, Stewartville, stop sign, \$130.

ARREST Steele County

Blooming Prairie Police

Lance Aaron Souhrada, 42, arrested at 7:24 p.m. Dec. 30, possession of controlled substance, held for court.

Owatonna Police

Jay Bud Fuentes, 20, arrested at 12:13 p.m. Dec. 25, domestic assault, held for court.

Veronica Marie Richards, 34, arrested at 11:53 p.m. Dec. 23, domestic assault/assault, held for court.

James Rashi Williams, 37, arrested at 11:15 p.m. Dec. 26, domestic warrant arrest, held for court.

Heather Marie Krumrie, 28, arrested at 1:07 p.m. Dec. 28, controlled substance possession, no insurance and suspended license, held for court.

Klayton Ray Ament, 35, arrested at 5:03 a.m. Dec. 30, felony assault, robbery and possession of controlled substance, held for court.

Codie James Moore, 24, arrested at 1 p.m. Dec. 31, warrant arrest, body only.

Brett Willis Warner, 28, arrested at 9:38 a.m. Jan. 2, controlled substance warrants arrest, body only.

Zamir Granados, 19, arrested at 2:32 p.m. Jan. 5, felony controlled substance crime, held for court.

Steele County Sheriff

Isaac Joseph Cronin, 19, arrested at 4 p.m. Dec. 23, probation violation warrant arrest, body only.

Juan Raul Mendez, 24, arrested at 10:50 a.m. Dec. 23, complaint warrant arrest, \$20,000 bail.

Rodney Allan Ross, 48, arrested at 3:04 p.m. Dec. 23, probation violation warrant arrest, body only.

Nathaniel Thomas Henderson, 29, arrested at 3 p.m. Dec. 23, probation violation warrant arrest, held for court.

Jessica Jean Laird, 39, arrested at 12:49 p.m. Jan. 1, warrant arrest, body only.

Kalley Jane Chadderdon, 19, arrested at 3:40 p.m. Jan. 4, warrant arrest, \$500 bail.

Rylee Lee Burns, 22, already in custody, probation warrant arrest, held for court.

Nicole Marie Coffee, 34, arrested at 11:45 p.m. Jan. 4, warrant arrest, held for court.

Ethan Andrew Grossman, 21, arrested at 7:23 p.m. Jan. 5, warrant arrest, \$500 bail.

MN State Patrol

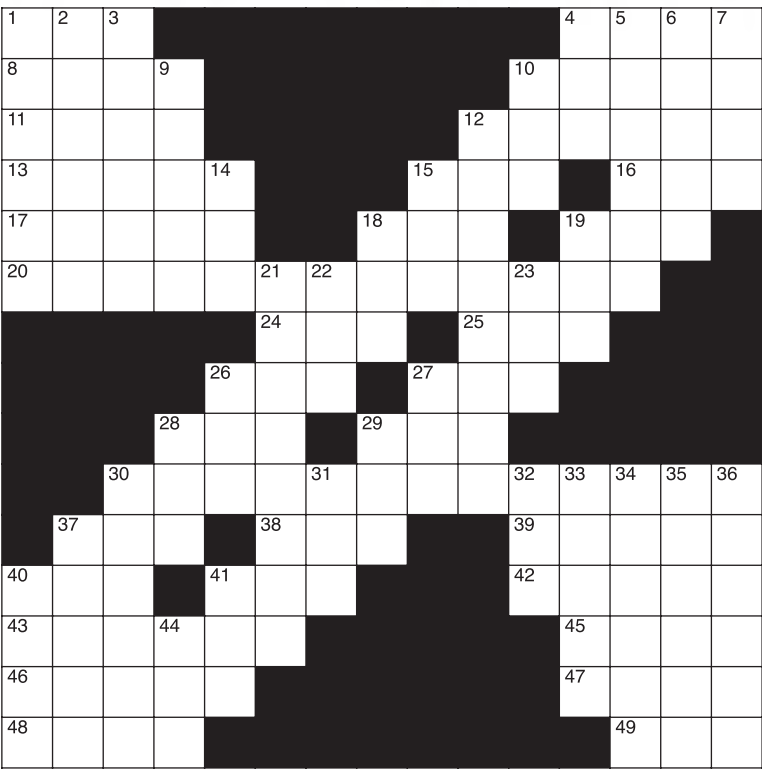
Jose Luis Flores, 24, arrested at 8:24 p.m. Dec. 31, felony possession of controlled substance, held for court.

Holly Lynne Schnobrich, 33, arrested at 1:30 p.m. Jan. 5, felony order for protection violation and suspended license, held for court.

WEEKLY CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

- Munich jazz label
- A lump of clay
- Showy ornament
- ___ Girl, brand of beer
- Aka Kissavos
- Warmest season of the year
- 2nd longest Bulgarian river
- Records the brain's electric currents
- Cutting part of a drill
- Colorful Italian city
- The last part
- Pouch
- "Mad Men" creator
- No (Scottish) initials
- Actress Farrow
- Focus cars (Co. initials)
- Snakelike fish
- One point E of due S
- Grey sea eagle
- Female "Mad Men" star
- Actress Lupino
- Time units (abbr.)
- Moses' elder brother
- 4th Caliph of Islam
- Treaty of Rome creation
- Theatrical play



CLUES DOWN

- Selfishness
- Cinnamon source
- Revolutionary firearm
- Br. university town river
- Lower back region
- Relating to oil

Answers on 6B

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The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Southeastern Minnesota Multi-County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (SEMMCHRA) will be held at the SEMMCHRA Main Office, 134 East Second Street, Wabasha, MN 55981 on Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. The public is welcome to attend. 4c

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MINNESOTA
MONDAYS



Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

It was a clear winter morning on Jan. 9 with scattered snow throughout the day. The temperature was up from the weekend allowing for

Tuesday



High: 31°
Low: 10°

Wednesday



High: 20°
Low: 3°

Thursday



High: 9°
Low: -12°

Friday



High: 6°
Low: 3°

Saturday



High: 17°
Low: 10°

Sunday



High: 24°
Low: 20°

Crossword solution

E	C	M							C	L	O	D
G	A	U	D						P	A	U	L
O	S	S	A						S	U	M	M
I	S	K	U	R					E	E	G	B
S	I	E	N	A					E	N	D	S
M	A	T	T	H	E	W	W	E	I	N	E	R
									N	A	E	M
									F	M	C	E
									S	B	E	E
												R
									E	L	I	S
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									I	D	A	H
									A	A	R	O
									D	R	A	M
									A	T	A	R
									S	E	L	L
									D	I	S	

Puzzle on 4B

GRIEF
RELIEF



What is grief like? Grief is like a series of waves that come and go, feelings that vary in intensity over a long period of time as we are constantly reminded of changes that result from the death of our loved one. We need to take time to face our emotions and feelings. Then make careful plans for our new lives without the deceased. Our feelings and grief may seem unpredictable and confused at times, but that is perfectly normal.

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Huskies nip Tigers



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Owatonna senior heavyweights Goy Tut (top) works a two-on-one to breakdown his Albert Lea opponent during the second period of the Huskies dual against Albert Lea Thursday night in front of a packed house at the OHS Gymnasium. To force a tiebreaker, Tut needed to win by decision or greater. The senior's 4-1 decision helped Owatonna come away with a win by criteria.

Tut's 4-1 decision forces tiebreaker, win by criteria

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

Needing to win the final two matches of the night just to force a tiebreaker, two of Owatonna High School's seniors stepped up.

With the match sitting at a 19-

25 Tigers lead, Griffin Thorn – who was bumped up to wrestle at 220 pounds – was able to secured pin at the 3:29-mark of the match, thrusting the weight of the final match onto senior heavyweights Goy Tut.

All eyes were on the heavyweights as the score was just a

three-point Owatonna deficit. That amount of pressure could cause someone to become tentative, but not Tut.

"I heard the fans going and I was just like, 'it's time to keep pounding and pounding until those final seconds,'" he said.

After recording pair of take-

downs, Tut managed to beat Albert Lea's Tanner Palmer with 4-1 decision, forcing the 28-28 tiebreaker before match officials declared Owatonna the winner on criteria Thursday night in a packed OHS Gymnasium.

"It's just one of those feelings," commented Tut. "I al-

ways wanted to get this feeling and got it tonight."

Huskies co-head coach Scott Seykora added that to only surrender one pin was the key in the dual.

WRESTLING
Continued on page 3C

Blossoms sprout at Target Center

Wurst, Larson guide Blooming Prairie to win



Staff photo by Mark DeLap

Blooming Prairie senior Marissa Larson (24) goes up for a shot as Sam Wurst (22) and McKenna Hein (23) look on in the first half of Blooming Prairie's 51-36 non-conference win over Cleveland at the Target Center Saturday. Larson was strong for the Lady Blossoms, scoring 11 points, grabbing nine rebounds and recording three assists.

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

Minneapolis - Playing at the Target Center, The Blossom girls salvaged the last game of a hectic three-game week. A good second half triggered a 51-36 non-conference victory over Cleveland Saturday.

An early surge in the second half led to a 10-point lead, and they never looked back after that. Three straight baskets from Marissa Larson and a three pointer from Julia Worke keyed the run. The Blossoms maintained that lead the rest of the way.

"It took half to adjust to the bright lights, the big arena and the big floor," remarked Coach John Bruns, "but once we got going in the second half, we controlled the game nicely."

"We shot just 16 percent the first half, but ended the game with a 33 percent night."

Sam Wurst led the Blossom's offense with 18 points, including four of six at the free throw line. Both Larson and Worke scored 11 points.

Worke had her best offensive game with three treys and went perfect at the line. Larson had nine rebounds a block, three assists, and a steal.

McKenna Hein pulled down 11 rebounds, had four assists, and two steals.

Kylie Forystek and Ayren Ingvalson each recorded four assists and a steal.

The win evened the season record for the Blossoms again at 5-5 overall.

Eagles 49, Blossoms 40

It hasn't been a pleasant return to the hardwood for the Blossom girls. They lost their second game of the week when Maple River defeated the Blooming Prairie 49-40 at the BPHS gymnasium Friday.

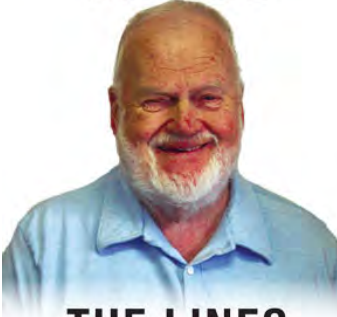
It marked the second straight loss and a loss in the conference as well.

"Poor shooting and too many turnovers plagued us in this game," commented Coach Bruns. "We led by one at the half, but we couldn't stop Madi Schirmer in the second half as she scored 17 of her 19 points in that half."

Maple River dominated play, although the team shot just 32 percent from the field. But the Blossoms had an even tougher night shooting, making only 21 percent from the floor.

GIRLS
Continued on page 2C

OUTSIDE



THE LINES LeMar Nelson Tough week for BP Sports

We have had such a mild fall and early winter of temperate weather, that last week's icebox temperatures caught almost everyone by surprise.

Fortunately, the below zero temps didn't last too long, and a warmer streak of higher temps are in the forecast. I am sure there will be many ups and downs of temperature before we can start counting the days until spring.

Tough week for sports

It didn't take long for the winter sports teams to get back into action after the long holiday break.

All three teams had contests last week, with the highlight being the girls' basketball game against Cleveland Saturday at the Target Center. The first week after the holidays proved to be a tough one for both basketball teams, although the wrestlers split two duals.

The Razorbacks had little trouble beating Lake City a week ago, but Goodhue handed the team only the second dual loss of the season. The shared program of Blooming prairie and Hayfield continues to present a formidable lineup at most meets.

The boys' basketball team ran into a real trap at Maple River in their only game of the week. A hot-shooting Eagle team never gave the Blossoms a chance in a runaway victory. It dropped the Blossoms below .500 for the season with a conference game against an undefeated NRHEG team next up (Tuesday).

It is shaping up as another challenging week for the boys.

The girls did salvage one victory for the week when they made a rare occurrence to Minneapolis.

In a prelim to the Timberwolves contest against the Utah Jazz, the Blossom girls defeated Cleveland 51-36. The win brought them back to a .500 record for the season, with a tough game coming up Tuesday, when they entertain archrival NRHEG.

The Panthers pose a real threat to the Blossoms, as they are compiling a winning record, both overall and in the conference.

I admit to being a little surprised at the blossom record so far. With just a few letter winners returning, and three 8th graders on the squad, the girls have been very competitive in most games this season.

By the way, our sports editor and I will be alternating writing column for each weekly edition, which means that "Outside the Lines" will appear just every other week.

We hope you continue to read and enjoy both Josh Zimmer's and my columns every other week.

I will focus more on local sports and events, while Josh takes a broader view of sports teams and events.

Happy reading!

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Medford girls in slump

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

The Medford girls basketball team has been in a bit of a slump to start the second half of the season.

Tigers 39, WEM 44

A first half that finished at a 21-21 tie showed signs that maybe the Tigers were about to get back on the winning track. Then, the Bucs defense hunkered down. Forcing nearly 15 turnovers, WEM managed to hold off a late Tigers surge to win 44-39 Friday night at Medford.

Lions 49, Tigers 47

Rochester - Despite clawing back from a 20-point hole, the Lady Tigers were unable to

complete the comeback, falling to Schaeffer Academy 49-47. Medford scored a total of 10 points in the opening 20 minutes. Emma Kniefel scored a team-high 24 points with 21 of those coming in the second half of the contest.

Tigers 46, Clippers 55

According to head coach Mark Kubat, the Tigers did a great job battling back against Cleveland, cutting a nine point deficit to just two late in the half, but couldn't generate any chances to takeover the lead late. Senior center Mikayla Spinler led the Tigers in scoring with 18 points and Emma Kniefel add 12 in the Tigers home return. **Editor's note: Scores for the Medford boys basketball contests and the wrestling team were not submitted prior to press.*



Medford freshman Emma Kniefel (15) goes up for a layup in the second half of Medford's 39-44 loss to WEM Friday at the Medford gymnasium. In her last three games, the freshman has scored 47 points, with a 24-point performance Thursday night.

Westfield earns split

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

In the first outing after the holidays, the Westfield Razorbacks split a triangular at Lake City Tuesday, Jan. 5. The Razorbacks lost a dual to Goodhue, which was just the second dual loss for the squad, but then bounced back to conquer the host Lake City Tigers 45-29.

In the loss to Goodhue, Ethan Arett and Trey Chatman each won by forfeit. Jackson Heydt pinned Bjorn Otterness, and both Riley Schultz and Mitchell Oswald won decisions. Oswald took a major decision over Ryan Schoenfelder. Against Lake City, Arett pinned Joey Kozlowski in the first period, and Heydt took down Josh Allen in the second period for a quick Razorback lead.

Colton Krell won a decision over Brendan Allen and Morgan Moreno pinned Thomas Frank in just 48seconds. Tristen Reicken pinned Jacob Allen in the first period. Dylan Nirk pinned Edwin Vasquez just before time expired in the third period. Mitchell Oswald turned Ivan Vargas just 41 seconds into the bout, and Chatman finished the win for Westfield with a forfeit victory.

Blossom boys fall

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

Maple River - The home-standing Maple River Eagles didn't give visiting Blooming Prairie much of a chance, as they soared past the Blossoms 71-46 in a conference contest Friday. Maple River made short work of the Blossoms in this

game, leaping to a 41-22 margin at the half. The hot-shooting Eagles shot almost 50 percent from the field, while BP had big troubles all night in finding the range. Maple River had three players in double figures, led by Jeff Lewis' 17 points. Mason Sohre counted 16 points, and Cole Sohre added 14. Freshman Gabe Hagen led

BP with 13 points. In fact, he was the lone player to reach double-figures in a cold-shooting, error-filled game for the Blossoms. Jake Ressler and Kaden Thomas counted nine points for BP, and Max Romeo added eight points, including a pair of treys. The loss dropped BP to 4-4 for the season.

Blossoms play in the home of the T-Wolves

GIRLS: from page 1C

The Blossoms did make three of six from three-point range, but numerous turnovers allowed the Eagles too many easy baskets. Maple River had Payton Berkner lead the offense with 20 points, and Madi Schirmer added 19. McKenna Hein just missed a double double with 13 rebounds to go along with nine points. Kylie Forystek and Sam Wurst both counted 10 points for the losers.

BP shot down by Rockets

In their first game in the post holiday break, the BP girls could

not get stops when they needed to and fell to a strong Randolph squad 65-59 on Tuesday, Jan. 5. A fast start gave the Blossoms a 12-point lead early in the first half, but the Rockets mounted a steady comeback and made a trey at the buzzer for a 31-30 edge at the break. "We lost a tough one tonight," remarked Coach Bruns. "We had an early lead, but the visitors fought back to grab the lead at the break. The second half was back and forth, but we just could not get the stops when we needed them." Both teams shot well from the field, with the Rockets making 44.1 percent on 26 of 59 at-

tempts, an BP making 42.4 percent on 25 of 59 tries. Sam Wurst led the Blossoms, scoring 18 points while Marissa Larson and McKenna Hein both accounted for 12. Blooming Prairie did hold a 45-32 edge in rebounding, but the inability to get stops when needed gave Randolph too many easy opportunities. Hein pulled down 14 rebounds, and Larson added 11, but 23 turnovers hurt the Blossoms. The Rockets tuned the ball over 11 times in the game. Coach Bruns added, "We gave up 65 points, and we aren't going to win too many games that way."



Blooming Prairie's Kylie Forystek (13) goes up for a layup in the first half of the Blossoms's 51-36 win.



Panther round up

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

Boys basketball

Panthers 59, Vikings 50
Despite a low-scoring first half, Tyler Raimann saw success early, scoring 10 points to give help give the Panthers a 27-23 lead at half. In the second half, it was all Oakley Baker. The senior scored a game-high 20 points and grabbed 10 rebounds. The Panthers' record sit at a perfect 11-0. **NRHEG 50, WEM 43**
Although WEM put up a good fight the NRHEG boys continued their unbeaten season with well-earned 50-43 victory over the Bucs at New Richland Thursday. The two teams played to a 22-22 tie at the break, thanks to a late run for the Panthers. WEM came out strong and led by six points for most of the first half. In the second half. The early rush put the Panthers in control, and they were able to hang on for the hard-fought win. As coach Churchill remarked, "I thought we competed hard the first half, which allowed us to stay in the game and eventually take control. This was another hard-fought game between two pretty god teams."

Raimann led the Panthers, scoring 17 points while Oakley Baker had 15 points. and Benji Lundberg added 11. Zac Olson led all scorers in the game with 20 points for WEM. **Panthers 70, Knights 50**
After three holiday losses last week, the NRHEG girls got back on the winning track with a convincing 70-50 victory over Kenyon-Wanamingo at Kenyon Tuesday, Jan.3. The Panthers

Girls basketball

Panthers 41, Vikings 50
The Panthers saw a six-point lead dwindle in the second half. Betsy Schoenrock paced NRHEG with 16 points. Marnie Wagner added five steals. Panthers 54, Bucs 41
The NRHEG girls won their second game in a row after the holiday break, defeating WEM 54-41 at Waterville Thursday, Jan. 5. The Panthers came out a little flat, but still managed to grab a 29-22 lead at the break. The second half was much better for the winners. "We played much better in the second half", commented Coach Onika Peterson, "after playing a little flatter in the first half than we would have liked. It was a great conference win, but we need to continue to attack the basket and make smart choices with the ball." Betsy Schoenrock led the offense with 14 points, but Maddie Wagner had 13 points, and Marnie Wagner added 12. Schoenrock earned her second double double in a row with 10 rebounds to go along with her 14 points. Maddie Wagner had five steals and an assist, and Marnie Wagner had eight rebounds, three assists, and four steals.

Panthers 70, Knights 50
After three holiday losses last week, the NRHEG girls got back on the winning track with a convincing 70-50 victory over Kenyon-Wanamingo at Kenyon Tuesday, Jan.3. The Panthers

started fast and jumped to a 13-point halftime lead. Eight different girls entered the scoring column, led by Betsy Schoenrock's 31-point outburst. Maddie and Marnie Wagner had 19 and 12 points respectively, and Kayley Camerer added seven. The goal going into this game," remarked Coach Peteraon, "was to keep Mara Quam in sight all the time, and the girls did a good job of keeping her in check. "We also shot the ball well, and it was fun to see the girls work as hard as they did and come out on top."

Wrestling

On Thursday night, the NRHEG wrestling team hosted a triangular against Maple River and Kenyon-Wanamingo. The Panthers faced Maple River first, falling to a 60-18 defeat. In 14 matches, the Panthers recorded just three pins while giving up nine. Andrew Reich (106) was able to get NRHEG on the board first with a pin of Ethan Everson at the 5:26-mark of the match. At 152 and 160 pounds, NRHEG recorded pins from Tyler Jacobson and Cole Staloch, who both pinned of thier opponents in the second period of the matches. In the final dual of the meet, The Panthers fell to Kenyon-Wanamingo 68-8. Outside of forfeits, the lone team points were recorded by Brett Kubiawicz's 6-3 decision over Tyler Craig.

STARS OF STEELE

Dalton Kubista

Emma Kniefel

In three Big Nine Conference games, Owatonna junior Dalton Kubista came up big for the Huskies. The junior averaged just shy of 30 points per game with 29.7. Against the Winhawks, Kubista scored a season-high 37 points in a 71-68 win.

Despite the recent slump the Lady Tigers have been facing, freshman Emma Kniefel has been red-hot for Medford. In three games, she scored a total of 47 points, to include a 24-point performance against Schaeffer Academy.

Stars of Steele is brought to you courtesy of:

Lady Huskies drop Big Nine foes

13-2 run to open the second half lifts Owatonna to 79-48 win Tuesday

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

Huskies 62, Spartans 52

Sydney Schultz continues her streak of consecutive games reaching double figures with a game-high 28 points. The star junior also grabbed seven rebounds and registered four steals.

Owatonna led by as many as 20 points in the second half and managed to fight off a late scoring surge by Rochester Mayo.

Huskies 70, Rockets 56

In the first Big Nine Conference game of the New Year, the Owatonna High School girls basketball team was looking to start the second half of the season on a high note. After a few possessions, the Lady Huskies appeared that they were going to be in a bat-

tle. Then, like a scene from a movie, junior Sydney Schultz made what could be described as a game-changing play.

As Rochester John Marshall guard Tori Gateno was pushing the ball up court, the star junior ripped the ball away, which in turn, lead to a 13-2 run in the first half which proved to be a difference in Owatonna's 70-56 win over the Rockets Tuesday night at the OHS gymnasium. Head coach Lindsey Hugstad-Vaa noted afterward that Schultz has been having a fine career at Owatonna.

"She's been such a huge impact on our team this year. She was last year and the year before that; she's just so aggressive all the time. Every time she's in the game, she plays 100 percent," she added.

Schultz was the Firestarter for the Huskies tonight. Her created turnover in the first half propelled Owatonna to a 13-2 run, making the lead

go from an 11-10 contest to a commanding 24-12 lead, midway through the first half.

However, after the quick Huskies' run, John Marshall was able to generate a run of their own, cutting the lead to seven and forcing a timeout by Owatonna. Hugstad-Vaa noted that the timeout wasn't so much about the devastating run as it was just getting the girls refocused.

"I told them just to calm down, we have the lead and to not force shots. Once we 'oh yeah, we don't have to be chasing them every time they score,' we kind of calmed down and were able to run our offense," she said.

Owatonna took a 41-29 lead to the half and never looked back, despite allowing an 11-4 Rockets' run that cut the lead to single digits. Once the tempo was established, Schultz and the Huskies continued to convert turnovers to points.

Schultz has reached double-

figures in every game this season and kept that streak alive tonight. At the half, she led all scorers with 16 points while also grabbing seven rebounds. In the second half, she would add eight to reach a game-high 24 points.

Lex Langeland also had a strong showing, scoring 10 points down low for Owatonna. Two of which were free-throw attempts in part of going 20 for 25 from the line to give the Huskies a formidable lead late in the game.

Holding a commanding 16-point lead with just under two minutes left in the game, much of the reserves were in the game for Owatonna.

**Editor's note: Wednesday, the Huskies will play Big Nine Conference foe Winona in a make up game from Dec. 17.*



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Owatonna's Sydney Schultz (20) boxes out as she battles for a rebound Tuesday against Rochester John Marshall at the OHS gymnasium. Schultz led all scorers with 24 points.

Owatonna girls on roll

Huskies handily win two of last three Big Nine games



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Owatonna senior captain Jenna Bogen (21) fires a shot on net in the second period of the Huskies' 4-1 win over Rochester John Marshall at the Four Seasons Centre. Bogen scored twice in the win and has four goals in the last three games.

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

Huskies 4, John Marshall 1

Owatonna has seen a stretch of near dominance on the offensive end, and it didn't stop Saturday.

After a 1-1 to end the first period, the Huskies and Rockets traded shots on goal in the second period to no prevail.

In fact, despite both teams

having a chance on the powerplay, neither team was able to capitalize on any rebounds.

In the third period, the Hot Huskies' offense woke up.

At the 3:25-mark of the third period, junior Jamie Davison's snipe from the point beat the glove of the JM's Sophia Hyke to score the game-winner.

The scoring wasn't over as Junior Captain Margo Achterkirch scored a pair of goals, to include an empty net goal to give

Owatonna the 4-1 win and their second win in three games.

Head coach Tim Hunst said that it was great to see the change in desire from his team.

"They ratched it up tonight. A really good effort from the girls. I think the christmas tournament shook something loose in them, there's a different look in their eyes when they step onto the ice," he added.

Northfield 1, Owatonna 1

Sydney Hunst scored Owatonna's only goal at the :38-mark of the second period. The Raiders tied the game minutes later to establish the tie.

Huskies 8, Packers 1

Four different Huskies registered a multi-goal game as Owatonna High School's girls hockey team (8-5) steamrolled past Austin (2-12) 8-1 for their first win of the New Year at the Four Seasons Center in Owatonna.

Eighth grader Sydney Hunst notched the game's first goal of the game just 55 seconds into the game and senior captain Jenna Bogen scored the first of her two goals just minutes later.

The Huskies' offense exploded in the second period to put the game out of reach.

In a four-goal second period, Owatonna received goals from Maylynn Prokopec and Bogen as well as a pair of goals from junior captain Margo Achterkirch, whose two goals were roughly a minute apart.

Owatonna received a pair of goals from Hunst and Prokopec in the third. Prokopec's second goal from the game came on the Huskies only powerplay attempt of the night.

Head coach Tim Hunst and the Huskies will be back in action on Thursday when they travel to Northfield (8-6). Puck drop is tentatively set for 7 p.m.



Husky round up

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

Boys Hockey

Huskies 3, Rockets 2

Tyler Wencil scored two goals and Kodey Kiel added another as Owatonna topped Rochester John Marshall 3-2 in Big Nine Conference action in Rochester Saturday.

Wencil scored at the 10:45-mark of the first period and then scored the game-winner at 14:59 of the third period to break a 2-2 tie.

Raiders 5, Huskies 3

Despite clawing back from a 4-2 deficit in the third period, Owatonna surrendered a empty-net goal in the final seconds to fall 5-3.

Carter Broten scored two goals in the first period to tie the game at 2-2 while Tyler Wencil added Owatonna's final two goals in the second and third period.

Boys basketball

Huskies 71, WinHawks 68

In a make up game from Dec.

17, the Owatonna boys basketball team was able to keep the hot hand that was developed Friday.

Dalton Kubista had a strong performance, leading all scorers with 37 points in the Big Nine Conference win.

Andrew Jackson and Jason Williamson also reached double-figures, scoring 10 and 12 points respectively.

Huskies 79, Mayo 66

Dalton Kubista had another team-leading performance, scoring 29 points in a Big Nine Conference win.

Jay Sullivan and Jason Williamson reached double figures, scoring 17 and 12 points respectively.

Rockets 85, Huskies 68

Rochester - Matthew Hurt shot 78.2 percent as the Rockets downed the Huskies 85-68 in Big Nine Conference action Thursday in Rochester.

Dalton Kubista led the Huskies with a team-high 23 points while Alex Raichle added 10 and seven assists.

WRESTLING: from page 1C

Huskies win dual on pin criteria, surrender one pin

"That's the reason we won on criteria. To give up only one pin against a team like Albert Lea is pretty tough; pretty proud of the effort our kids put in," he added.

While it was a thrilling finish, it wasn't all that thrilling of a start for Owatonna. Between 106 pounds and 132 pounds, Owatonna won just one match, allowing the Tigers to build a commanding 21-3 lead. At 133 pounds, eighth grader Kaden Nelson recorded the 7-6 win after securing a takedown and recording two points for near fall. Seykora mentioned that a shuffle to the Tiger's lower weights made for tough matchups.

"With Albert Lea it's always tough and both sides were trying to one-up each other as far as getting matchups and moving guys around. You know, all their lower weights bumped down a weight, which made their lower weights tougher," he added.

It was a like a classic heavy-weight title fight. Albert Lea would register a few wins and Owatonna would combat with a string of wins of their own.

All eyes were on the final match of the night, but what could be called the most anticipating match of the night was at 145 pounds.

It was a battle of defending state champions between Owatonna's two-time Class AAA champion in Peyton Robb and three-time state champion Garrett Aldrich.

Robb dominated the matchup, winning with a 13-5 major decision.

"Aldrich is a three-time state champ. You don't become a state champ because you're no good," added Seykora.

"Peyton (Robb) is just a beast right now. He's wrestling with so much confidence; he believes that when he steps on that mat no one is above him," he said.

The Huskies would cut the deficit to 16-28 after picking up a pair of wins from state-ranked Cade King (160) and Class AAA top-ranked grappler in Brandon Moen (182). King was able to secure a 7-6 win after registering a takedown on a sweep single-leg with 15 seconds left in the

match. Moen – who went a perfect 6-0 in his return at the Clash XV – was up 8-3 before his opponent suffered an upper arm injury and medically forfeited the match.



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Owatonna Riley Becker (Top) tries to hold on as his Albert Lea opponent try to position himself to secure a takedown.

Owatonna (7-3) will have a triangular at the OHS gymnasium on Jan. 12 against Big Nine Conference foes Austin and Winona at 5 p.m.

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150th birthday bash set for Sunday, July 2

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff Writer

One of the biggest birthday bashes ever is planned for the City of Blooming Prairie on Sunday, July 2, 2017.

Planning continues for the many events to salute the Sesquicentennial of Blooming Prairie, its birth date being recorded in 1917.

Members of the Sesquicentennial committee met Thursday night, Jan. 5 at the City Center to finalize more planning for the many events to be held the weekend of July 4.

Since July 4 is officially on a

Tuesday this year, the committee decided to pick Sunday, July 2 as the day to officially celebrate the 150th birthday of Blooming Prairie.

This event will take place in the City Park beginning at noon with a kiddie parade, 12:30 a blessing and picnic (bring your own or purchase one at the park).

There will also be a group picture at 1:15 to go into a time capsule, a balloon release, cake & ice cream along with music and many other activities to share with your family. Some food stands will also be set up in the park on this date.

Mary Kittelson provided

information on selling birthday cake mini banners at \$1 each. The banners, with names of donors, will then be posted at Chamber businesses.

The gigantic Sesquicentennial 4th of July parade will be on the Fourth as usual. The parade has been said to have drawn as many as 30,000 people to town.

Committee members reported on the progress of a history book being prepared by LeMar Nelson and Nancy Vaillancourt.

Sarah Esplan distributed a sample letter to be directed to businesses and non-profits, inviting

them to participate in the 150th Birthday Party on July 2.

The group agreed to go with one 4th of July button carrying the 150th logo. Sales will be made door to door in May. Chamber vice president Dan Peach said the Explorers of BP can help with the button sales and distribution.

Howard Lestrud volunteered to contact the Governor's Office and invite Gov. Mark Dayton to attend the Birthday Party.

Becky Noble, executive director of the Chamber, said letters will be sent home with grade schoolers requesting them to draw a memory

of Blooming Prairie. The drawings are to be returned by Jan. 20.

Becky is also asking high school students to write a paragraph describing a memory of Blooming Prairie, or finish the sentence: "You know you're from Blooming Prairie when..."

Becky will also talk with the English teachers to see if they would make this an assignment for more participation and maybe the history teachers to teach the kids about Blooming Prairie history. This will also be placed on Facebook.

The committee discussed Nola Wradislavsky's idea of the

possibility of planting a time capsule in the city. It could be opened 50 years from now. It was suggested to take a group photo with someone standing atop a BP fire truck. Pictures from F & M State Bank's calendars over the years could be placed in the capsule.

Bands will be sought for entertainment during the 150th celebration.

Banners will be made advertising the 150th birthday and will be placed sometime in April.

Sarah Esplan suggested an obstacle course event be scheduled in June for kids as a fundraiser.

Busting boredom



**NANCY
VAILLANCOURT**

If the winter doldrums are getting your children down, send your 4th, 5th, or 6th graders to the Blooming Prairie Branch Library for

Bust Boredom Wednesdays!

Beginning on January 18 until the end of the school year, we will have game days from 3-5 p.m. on Wednesday afternoons.

Challenge others to games of Battleship, Jenga, Pictionary, and more. Since 6th graders have been learning to play chess at school, chess tournaments with several chess sets may be played. Parents, please encourage your kids to come and find games beyond the computer screens.

Speaking of computer screens, the library will again be offering a beginning course on I-Pads for adults.

The class will begin at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 24, and will be held for four consecutive Tuesdays. We will introduce you to the basics of the I-Pad, and also have hands-on demonstrations of web searches and various apps.

Please call the library at 507-583-7750 if you have questions. We have two library I-pads that can be used, but if you own one, please bring that along.

The New Year is a great time to learn new things. Let us help you on your personal or family quest for knowledge and skills. See you at the library!

What is a Community Emergency Response Team?

When natural and human-caused disasters strike in a community the resulting damage can overwhelm local emergency responders and resources. They can interrupt transportation and utility and communication networks leaving individuals and neighborhoods isolated from outside support.

CERT promotes a partnership between emergency services and the people they serve. CERT volunteers take classes in disaster preparedness, fire suppression, medical operations, light search and rescue, terrorism response, team organization and disaster psychology. Training requires

24 hours of instruction.

In Steele County, CERT volunteers have responded to events including flooding, tornadoes and missing persons. Some tasks performed include sand bagging, road closures, door to door canvassing, damage assessment, searches, river gauge monitoring, sheltering, Holiday Train perimeter safety. Other events include opportunities for more training and drills.

As a volunteer, you participate in only those events you want to. Most importantly you will learn how to take care of yourself and family first in an emergency. You will meet some fantastic people

in CERT and you will have a special bond with your 2017 classmates.

The next CERT class is coming up in Feb 2017. If you are interested in joining the class please call Bonnie at (507) 390-2385. Those that signed up during the Steele County Free Fair please confirm you still want to attend the class by calling in too. All participants that complete the class receive a free bag of CERT gear. There is a \$20 deposit at the beginning of classes that is returned on completion of all the classes. A background check is required to join CERT.



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STEELE COUNTY Times

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CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT New Chamber leaders aim at more growth

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff Writer

"We have to do our part to promote the vitality of the Blooming Prairie community," says Greg Johnson, new president of the Chamber.

Johnson is part owner and manager of B to Z Hardware of Blooming Prairie.

Johnson took over the presidential reins late last year from Luke Swenson who served as president for two years.

Dan Peach, a familiar face behind the cash register at B to Z Hardware, becomes the Chamber vice president booting Johnson upstairs. The two work together often. Peach is also a part-time police officer for Blooming Prairie and Janesville.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Johnson said one of his and Dan's goals is to enlarge the membership of the BP Area Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber currently counts 130 members. Both hinted 150 might be a realistic goal for membership.

Another goal of Johnson and Peach will be to "showcase" Blooming Prairie during its Sesquicentennial (150th) year. Both are encouraging people to step forward to help the city observe this milestone.

Johnson and Peach are both converts to Blooming Prairie. They agree that their change of residency to Blooming Prairie was one of the best moves either made.

Johnson came to Blooming to manage B to Z in 2006. Falling in love with the city, he moved here the following year.

Johnson and Peach said their serving the Chamber "is a way of giving back to the community what it has given them. We feel we need to be involved, being in retail."

Johnson said he and Peach are still "pretty green" at being the new leaders of the Chamber and said they will stay close to executive director Becky Noble for guidance.

Another major goal of the new leaders is to find more revenue streams to pay for the city's 4th of July celebration. "The parade is quite a legacy left in southern Minnesota, Johnson said. More than 30,000 attend the parade each year.

Johnson and Peach applauded the efforts of Kristi Fiebiger and others who sought donations for the parade by passing donation canisters throughout the parade route.

"What this community gives back is amazing," said Johnson. "We are so blessed," he added. He pointed to the work of the BP Education

Foundation and to the efforts of the BP Cancer Group.

Johnson and Peach both thanked the community for the support of their retail store. "We are thrilled to help people with their problems and projects," Johnson said. "It's a real joy to come to work every day," he added.

People in Blooming Prairie "take great pride" in being a Blossom, Johnson said.

A big challenge "and the million dollar question," Johnson says is how do we get people to get involved in the community and in the chamber. Again, it's the pride factor that will spur people into helping make the community better," Johnson said.

"As we thrive as a business, we want the whole community to thrive," Peach said.

"We believe we are up to the task for helping make Blooming Prairie the best place to live and do business," Johnson said.

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Movie Review: Hidden Figures



BY **EMILY SCHOENBECK**
County Staff Writer

There's a lot to discover in the new movie, "Hidden Figures".

It follows the trials of African American women working for NASA in the middle of the 60's space race. At the heart of it is Katherine Johnson, played by Taraji P. Henson, a real-life

mathematician who helps calculate the flight and landing trajectories for the Space Task Group.

The goal of the task group is to ensure the safety and success of astronaut John Glenn in his mission to become the first American to complete an orbit around the Earth, the mission that would put the first American in space and propel the U.S. to lead the space race and put a man on the moon.

In addition to Johnson, the movie also chronicles the struggles of Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson, pioneers in computer programming and engineering respectively.

What separates this underdog story for the ones that have come before is the two-fold discrimination the leads face. There's white women who won't take them seriously because they're black, black men who won't take them seriously because they're women, and white men

who won't because they're both. The endurance shown by all three characters through repeated discrimination and humiliation is inspiring.

Adding complexity to a rather straightforward genre are the stakes outside of the characters' lives. If the pressure is too much for them, it's not just their own careers in danger, but the lives of the astronauts whose safety they've been entrusted with. Progress is not the quiet struggle of a minority, but the necessity of all.

Octavia Spencer in particular in her role as Dorothy Vaughan proves her continued appeal isn't hype. Her ability to verbally slap other characters with a single line is on display, and it feels good to watch her at work.

The film does an impressive job of balancing out its running time between its three leads, while also giving time to develop the supporting cast. Kevin Costner is back

doing what he does best, as he plays Al Harrison, director of the Space Task Group and the man charged with doing the impossible under great political pressure. While this performance isn't a departure from anything he's done before, fans of Costner wouldn't have it any other way.

If there's a warning to attach to this movie, it's that it does not allow for passive viewing. You will get mad. From the large racial injustices to the petty slights, anyone with a half-developed sense of fairness will be outraged on behalf of the leads. That outrage, however, turns to drive over the course of the film, and it makes you cheer all the fiercer for these women's success.

"Hidden Figures" proves that even as we look to the stars, the greatest leaps for mankind are worth making right here on terra firma.

Legal Notices

Foreclosure

16-105134

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: May 27, 2010
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$167,638.00
MORTGAGOR(S): John C. Ress, an unmarried man
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
MIN#: 100039032239395920
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Quicken Loans, Inc.
SERVICER: Nationstar Mortgage LLC
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed May 28, 2010, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000371393
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Nationstar Mortgage LLC
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 4, Block 1, Radel's Francis Addition
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1030 Hemlock Ln, Owatonna, MN 55060
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-437-0104
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$155,321.59
THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof;
PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: February 10, 2017, 10:00am
PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060
to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns.
TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on August 10, 2017, or the next business day if August 10, 2017 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.
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Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333

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ASSUMED NAME:
All-Season Storage of Owatonna

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: **343 Pearl Street Owatonna MN 55060 USA**

NAMEHOLDER(S):

Name: **JD Mini Storage of Owatonna, LLC**

Address: **343 Pearl Street Owatonna MINNESOTA (MN) 55060 USA**

If you submit an attachment, it will be incorporated into this document. If the attachment conflicts with the information specifically set forth in this document, this document supersedes the data referenced in the attachment.

By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

SIGNED BY: **James A. Atkinson**

MAILING ADDRESS:
None Provided

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: **jimatkinson58@gmail.com**

12/27,1/3, 1/10

Probate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

DISTRICT COURT THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT PROBATE COURT DIVISION

COUNTY OF STEELE

Court File No. 74-PR-16-2570

ORDER AND NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR ADJUDICATION OF INTESACY DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE IN UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of
Irma Wradislavsky, Decedent

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:

It is Ordered and Notice is hereby given that on the 23rd day of January, 2017. At 10:45 a.m., a hearing will be held in the above named Court at Owatonna, Minnesota, for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of heirship and for the appointment of

David V. Wradislavsky whose address is 14579 89th Ave. SE, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917 as personal representative of the estate of the above named decedent in unsupervised administration, and any objection thereto must be filed with the Court. That, if proper, and no objections are filed, said personal representative will be appointed to administer the estate, to collect all assets, pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, and sell real and personal property, and do all necessary acts for the estate. Upon completion of the administration, the representative shall file a statement to close the estate and shall distribute the estate to the persons thereunto entitled as ordered by the Court.

Notice is further given that ALL CREDITORS having claims against said estate are required to present the same to said personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this notice or said claims will be barred.

Karen Duncan
12-27-2016

JUDGE OF DISTRICT COURT
DATED

Jason J. Iacovino
P O Box 818; 415 E. Main Street
Blooming Prairie MN 55917
Telephone Number: 507-583-6663
Attorney Registration Number: 0386770

1/3, 1/10

Probate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION

COUNTY OF STEELE

Court File No. 74 - PR-16-2574

NOTICE OF INFORMAL PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of
Marilyn J. Knutson, Decedent

Notice is given that an application for informal probate of the Decedent's Will, dated June 25, 2008, ("Will"), has been filed with the Registrar. The application has been granted.

Notice is also given that the Registrar has informally appointed Judy Bishop and Denise Brekke, whose addresses are 10753 Dodge Mower Road, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917 and 3819 Dane Road, Owatonna, MN 55060,

respectively, as co-personal representatives of the Estate of the Decedent. Any heir, devisee or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as personal representative or may object to the appointment of the co-personal representatives. Unless objections are filed with the Court (pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-607) and the Court otherwise orders, the co-personal representatives has full power to administer the Estate, including, after 30 days from the date of issuance of letters, the power to sell, encumber, lease or distribute real estate.

Any objections to the probate of the Will or appointment of the Co-Personal Representatives must be filed with this Court and will be heard by the Court after the filing of an appropriate petition and proper notice of hearing.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

Date: March 7, 2016

____Kris Schmitz____
Registrar

Attorney for Personal Representative
Kristin K. Haberman
Einhaus, Mattison, Carver & Haberman, P.A.
202 N. Cedar Avenue
P.O. Box 545
Owatonna, MN, 55060
Attorney License No: 0268045
Telephone: (507) 451-3580
FAX: (507) 451-3532
Email: haberman@owatonnalawyers.com

1/10,1/17

Probate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION

COUNTY OF STEELE

Court File No. 74-PR-17-33

NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of
Gennell M. Iverson, Decedent.

Notice is given that an Application for Informal Appointment of Personal Representative was filed with the Registrar. The Registrar accepted the application and appointed Keith Iverson, whose address is 18896 820th Ave., Hayward, Minnesota 56043, to serve as the personal representative of the decedent's

estate.

Any heir or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as personal representative or may object to the appointment of the personal representative. Any objection to the appointment of the personal representative must be filed with the Court, and any properly filed objection will be heard by the Court after notice is provided to interested persons of the date of hearing on the objection.

Unless objections are filed, and unless the Court orders otherwise, the personal representative has the full power to administer the estate, including, after thirty (30) days from the issuance of letters of general administration, the power to sell, encumber, lease, or distribute any interest in real estate owned by the decedent.

Notice is further given that, subject to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the decedent's estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court within four (4) months after the date of this notice or the claims will be barred.

Date: Jan. 4, 2017

____/s/____Kris Schmitz____
Registrar

Court Administrator
Lee Ann Riehle (MN# 240461)

Streater & Murphy, P.A.
111 Riverfront, Suite 301
P.O. Box 310
Winona Minnesota 55987
Telephone: (507) 454-2925
Facsimile: (507) 454-2929
ATTORNEY FOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

1/10,1/17

Assumed Name

OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME

1/10, 1/17

Minnesota Statutes, 333

PUBLIC HEARING

Steele County has designated its official website as www.co.steele.mn.us.

Official publication of Advertisements for Bids of Transportation Construction projects will be done on the official website.

1/10

Blooming Prairie Township Election Notice 2017

Filings for Office of Treasurer -- 2 year term
Filings for Office of Supervisor -- 3 year term

Will be open to file for office
January 3rd through January 17th

Applications for Candidacy can be picked up and returned to the Clerk's Office along with a \$2 filing fee.

Missy Anderson
Blooming Prairie Township Clerk

1/3, 1/10

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS FOR 2017

The Annual Meeting and Election of Officers of the Steele Co. Chapter of Minnesota Pheasants for 2017 will be held at the KC Hall, 820 S. Elm, Owatonna on Tuesday, Feb. 7 with Social hour at 6:30 and meeting at 7:00.

Please join us to hear what we have been doing this year, waht we have for future plans and projects and our election of officers for the upcoming year. If you would be interested in becoming a board member please contact President Josh Hobart at 456-4213 or just show up as we always tak nominations from the floor. We have several vacancies on the board and would like ot see some new faces along with new ideas.

1/10, 1/17, 1/24



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USDA announces support for rural cooperative businesses and organizations

Grants will help create jobs, boost rural economies throughout Minnesota

USDA Rural Development State Director Colleen Landkamer today announced four grants to assist rural cooperatives create jobs and support business expansion. The funds are being provided through the Rural Cooperative Development Grant (RCDG) program, which helps fund non-profit groups, such as rural cooperative development centers and higher education institutions.

“Many rural businesses and organizations are succeeding under the cooperative business model, and with access to additional resources, they can boost job creation and create an environment where more products are made in rural America,” Landkamer said. “The funding USDA is announcing today will provide the critical training and technical assistance rural cooperatives and non-profit groups need to help strengthen America’s ‘Main Street’ businesses.”

Development centers can use RCDG funds for feasibility studies, strategic planning, leadership and operations training, and business plan development. Recipients are required to contribute matching funds that equal 25 percent of total project costs.

Agricultural Utilization Research Institute (AURI) is receiving a \$200,000 grant to provide technical assistance to cooperatives and mutually owned business in the areas of local foods marketing and distribution, co-product utilization, bio-based product development, feed processing, food processing and sustainable crop development. AURI helps develop new uses for agricultural products through science and technology, partnering with businesses and entrepreneurs to bring ideas to reality.

The Latino Economic Development Center (LEDC), a membership-based nonprofit, strives to improve the land-

scape for underserved populations throughout Minnesota. LEDC is receiving a \$200,000 grant to provide technical assistance to help co-ops expand their production capacity and integrate cooperatives into a comprehensive production and distribution



system; and provide technical assistance on cooperative developments with minority and immigrant farmer groups.

At Northcountry Cooperative Foun-

dation (NCF), members seek to work with people to build organizations that are enduring and co-ops that serve member-owners generation after generation. NCF is receiving a \$200,000 grant to provide technical assistance and training for housing, food and worker cooperatives, and community outreach and youth engagement programs.

Food Co-op Initiative Food Co-op is paving “the way for New Food Co-op Excellence, leading to better fed, healthier communities with local control and connections” and will receive a \$200,000 grant to provide technical assistance to the boards and steering committees of rural startup food co-ops and co-op developers.

The RCDG program is one of several programs in support of USDA’s Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food (KYF2) Initiative, which coordinates the Department’s work to develop

strong local and regional food systems. Since 2009, USDA has invested close to \$1 billion in 40,000 local food-related projects on farms and in communities across the country. Please view the KYF2 website and use the KYF2 Compass to locate USDA investments in your community. More information on how USDA investments are connecting producers with consumers and expanding rural economic opportunities is available in Chapter IV of USDA Results on Medium.

Since 2009, USDA Rural Development has invested nearly \$13 billion to start or expand nearly 112,000 rural businesses nationwide, including nearly \$265 million in more than 1,300 rural small businesses and agricultural producers throughout Minnesota. For more information on USDA programs, visit www.rd.usda.gov/mn and contact your local area office



Mower SWCD promotes upland water storage

State group passes local-led resolution to develop statewide program

Upland storage of stormwater will get more attention statewide as a water-quality practice thanks to recent efforts by Mower Soil & Water Conservation District.

On Tuesday, Mower SWCD board chair Jim Gebhardt presented a resolution Tuesday for detaining stormwater the upper areas of watersheds – a practice used extensively by Mower SWCD and the Cedar River Watershed District in the Austin area – at the Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts’ (MASWCD) annual convention in Bloomington.

The resolution called for MASWCD to work with the Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR), a state agency, to implement a statewide program for funding and supporting upland storage detention in watersheds to improve water quality and reduce flooding

Gebhardt presented the resolution on behalf of Mower SWCD’s board of supervisors and staff.

New data continues to show that upland storage detention reduces the amount of sediment entering waterways and reduces flood-related damage, including streambank erosion, said Justin Hanson, Mower SWCD’s district manager.

Mower SWCD, which is contracted annually to perform the CRWD’s duties, has been involved extensively in upland storage projects. In particular, CRWD’s \$8.4 million Capital Improvement Project (CIP) initiative that started this past year aims to build 25 water-quality projects in the Cedar River Watershed, mostly involving water-detention structures in the upland areas of the Dobbins Creek watershed.

Also at this year’s MASWCD convention, Tom Cotter and his father Michael Cotter – the

Mower SWCD’s 2016 Conservationist of the Year – were honored during an awards ceremony with other conservationists from throughout Minnesota. Each year, the state’s SWCDs recognize individuals and organizations for outstanding accomplishments in implementing conservation practices and improving Minnesota’s natural resources.

Mower SWCD staff attended the MASWCD convention along with four members of the Mower SWCD Board of Supervisors. During the convention’s workshop portion, Mower SWCD’s water plan and outreach coordinator Tim Ruzek teamed with BWSR’s communications coordinator Celi Haga to give a presentation Tuesday to SWCD employees on ways to effectively and creatively provide conservation outreach and education.

What are the keys to successful farm business management?

The new year is right around the corner and with that comes a blank page to create your financial plan for the coming year. As a farmer, do you ever struggle with what needs to be included in your financial management plan? Are you looking to boost your farm financial management skills? As you look to start the new year off on the right foot, make sure you have a handle on your business’s finances.

•**Balance Sheet** – Do you sit down at the beginning of the year to create a balance sheet? This gives a snapshot of what you own and what’s owed against it. You’ll then determine your net worth. Creating a balance sheet at least annually is important to assess your profitability and business gains.

•**Income Statement** – Do you look at the profitability of your farm over the last year by creating an income statement? The income statement measures profitability by determining the net income of your farm. This is calculated by subtracting the

farm expenses from the farm revenue for the year. The best approach is to calculate the ac-



crual adjusted income because this factors in changes in inventory and depreciation during the year. By doing this, you learn the true profitability of the operation.

•**Cash Flow Projection** – Do you create a plan each year for your money? A cash flow projection can help you do just that. The statement of cash flows looks at where cash is utilized

in the operation – either for operating, investing, or financing activities. Remaining funds build your cash balance. Planning how every dollar will be best used is important and will get your business off to the right start in the new year.

These financial statements are created using your farm records and aid you in making important financial decisions for your operation. The MN Soybean Research and Promotion Council knows the importance of sound farm financial management as well. They are generously sponsoring two workshop sessions aimed directly at these skills. “Taking Charge of YOUR Finances: How to Survive & Thrive” workshop will help farmers put these tools into action to gain financial management skills. To learn more go to z.umn.edu/thriveworkshop. To register go to z.umn.edu/thrive2017. For more information, contact Pauline Van Nurdén at: pvannurd@umn.edu or 320-235-0726, ext 2008.

MDA grants fund specialty crop projects

\$1 million awarded to farmers, researchers, nonprofits

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has awarded \$1 million in grant funding to specialty crop growers in the state to help them compete in today’s marketplace. Specialty crops include fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and horticultural and nursery crops. In 2015, specialty crops accounted for roughly 6% of all crop production in Minnesota. The MDA’s Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG) Program receives funding under the current Farm Bill.

“These grants give farmers, producers, and researchers a way to increase the demand for the specialty crops they’re already growing,” said MDA Grants Coordinator David Weinand. “This year’s projects are maximizing the value of specialty crops and contribut-

ing to Minnesota’s greater agricultural economy. It’s exciting to see so many innovative projects receive funding.”

A variety of projects have been awarded grants, from breeding short season specialty crop varieties to statewide marketing campaigns and pest mitigation research. In addition to growers, government agencies, non-profit organizations, and universities all received funding to further a specialty crop industry or segment through the SCBG Program.

SCBG funding distribution began in November. For more information about the SCBG Program, including a list of awardees, visit www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/grants/specialty or call the MDA Grants Line at 651-201-6500.



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